THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS

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NEW STUDENTS CAN'T ENTER U.S. IF COURSE FULLY ONLINE

US officials on Saturday said foreign students not enrolled as of March 9 won't be able to get visas for 100% online courses

WON'T AFFECT THOSE ALREADY THERE

The latest action will not affect international students who are already in the US or those returning from abroad. It comes as US President Donald Trump has stepped up pressure on educational institutions to fully reopen despite the Covid-19 pandemic. Many leading US universities, including Harvard and Princeton, have pushed their classes entirely or mostly online

WILL HIT POOR STUDENTS HARDER

- Studying from home would be a challenge for many, especially those from poor or war-hit countries. Also, many students would need to attend classes at odd hours due to time zone differences
- Saturday's announcement comes days after Trump rescinded a hotly contested order to expel foreign students already in the US

2.5 lakh
FOREIGN STUDENTS WERE EXPECTED TO ENTER THE U.S. THIS YEAR

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UN report warns of ISIS presence in K'taka, Kerala

Says 150-200 terrorists planning to avenge their leader Asim Umar's killing; NIA charge sheet against 17 accused also makes mention of threat

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

A United Nations (UN) report on terrorism has warned that there are "significant" numbers of Islamic State of Iraq & Syria (ISIS) terrorists in Kerala and Karnataka. The report has warned that the terror organisation — al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), which reportedly has between 150 and 200 militants from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar, is planning attacks in the region to avenge the death of their leader Asim Umar.

Umar alias Sana-ul-Haq hailed from Sambhal in Uttar Pradesh. He was killed in September last year in a joint military operation by US-Afghanistan forces. The AQIS is now headed by Mahmood Osama, a Pakistani cleric who was earlier the spokesperson of the proscribed terrorist organisation.

The UN's 26th report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team concerning ISIS, al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities comes close on the heels of the charge sheet filed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), earlier this month against 17 accused in the Bengaluru ISIS module case, most of whom have been arrested. The NIA had stated that the accused from Kerala and Karnataka had floated a terrorist organisation, 'Al Hind', which was planning to execute terror strikes in South India. "The Bengaluru ISIS module is reportedly inspired by the Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) or IS-K, which has presence in Central and South Asia," said an official source.

The NIA on July 13 had arrested two persons – Nabeel S Khatri and Sadia Anwar Sheikh — from Pune, who are allegedly associated with the ISKP and were reportedly in touch with a Kashmiri couple — Jahanzeb Sami Wani and his wife Hina Bashir Beigh — who were arrested by the NIA in March this year from Delhi.

The federal agency, in the charge sheet, had stated that 'Al Hind' was founded in April 2019 from the house-cum-office of an accused, Mehboob Pasha, in Bengaluru with the objective of carrying out terror attacks in South India and for establishing the Islamic Khilafat in India.

"'Al Hind' is reportedly 'Hind Wilaya' (Province of India), which finds mention in the UN report," the counter-intelligence officer added.

2 KERALA MEN BEHIND GURDWARA ATTACK

On March 25, the ISKP, or IS-K, had executed a terror attack on a Gurdwara in Kabul, killing 27. Muhammed Muhsin alias Khalid al-Hindi and Sajid Kuthirummal from Kerala were reportedly behind the attack.

PHILANTHROPY

Infy co-founder Shibulal, family sell 0.2% stake for ₹786 crore

BISMAH MALIK @Bengaluru

INFOSYS co-founder and former CEO S D Shibulal said on Saturday that he and his family have sold 8.5 million shares of the company over the last three sessions between July 22 and 24 on the stock exchanges, representing 0.2% of the paid-up equity share capital. The total value of the transactions translate to over ₹786 crore. The sale was executed by Citigroup Global Markets India as the sole broker. The market capitalisation of Infosys on Friday stood at ₹3,92,962.68 crore.

"Over the last three days (July 22-24), the family members have sold a portion of their holding in Infosys Ltd on the stock exchanges. Proceeds from the partial stake monetisation will be utilised for a combination of philanthropic and investment activities," a statement from Shibulal's family office said.

As of June 30 this year, S D Shibulal held 17.6 lakh shares (0.04 per cent stake in Infosys).

CONTINUED ON: P10

NEVER-ENDING WAIT

Migrants wait for buses at Palace Grounds to reach the railway station and board trains to their home states, in Bengaluru on Saturday | PANDARINATH B

Cong to take fight to all Raj Bhavans

RAJESH ASNANI & RICHA SHARMA @ Jaipur/New Delhi

THE political crisis in Rajasthan that began as a feud between rebel Congress leader Sachin Pilot and Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is now turning into a tussle between the Chief Minister and Governor Kalraj Mishra.

While Gehlot and his loyalist MLAs continue to mount pressure on the Governor for an assembly session, Mishra has so far not given any indication that he will yield to the pressure. Angered by an unresponsive Governor, the Congress on Saturday announced that it would hold protests outside all Raj Bhavans across the country on Monday.

"PCCs will hold protests in front of Raj Bhavans across the country against this naked murder of democracy and subverting institutions on Monday, the 27th of July, 2020. Join this mass movement to save our democracy & Constitution," the party's organisational secretary K C Venugopal tweeted.

The party will also hold an online campaign, 'Speak up for democracy,' on Sunday against what it called the BJP's constant attempts to topple elected governments and misusing constitutional bodies. Gehlot, meanwhile, held a string of meetings with his MLAs and cabinet colleagues. In his meeting with the MLAs, Gehlot said that if needed, he was ready to go to the President to ensure that the "BJP conspiracy" to delay a test of strength does not succeed.

"If we have to picket Rashtrapati Bhavan or even the PM's residence we will do so," Gehlot told the MLAs. CONTINUED ON: P7

EXPRESS READ

MP CM Chouhan tests positive for Covid-19

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday tweeted that he has tested positive for Covid-19, becoming the first CM in the country to get infected. He is admitted at a designated private hospital here | P7

'Labour, land laws only relaxed'

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

WITH losses due to the lockdown running into lakhs of crores of rupees, Industries Minister Jagadish Shettar has his eyes set on a Rs 5 lakh crore investment target in the next five years and creation of 20 lakh jobs. To realise this, Shettar has driven his ministry to draft and then the cabinet to approve the New Industrial Policy 2020-2025. Right from amendments to Land Reforms Act to passing ordinances amending labour laws, Shettar has played the key role in policy changes to attract investments. The seeds of industrial policy reform were sown in Davos last year when Shettar accompanied Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa to the WEF. FULL INTERVIEW: P3

State will provide insurance cover for archaks, temple staff

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

IN a move that will benefit 50,000 people and their families, the State Government has initiated steps to provide insurance cover for archaks and other employees working in state-owned temples.

In a letter to the Principal Secretary, Endowments Department, on Thursday, a copy of which is available with *The New Sunday Express*, Endowments Minister Kota Srinivas Pujari said there is a need to implement the decision at the earliest to provide relief to the priests and families of employees.

Department officials have been directed to include employees at state-owned temples under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyothi Bima scheme and also enrol them under State Bank of India's group personal accident insurance policy at the earliest. The Central insurance scheme will provide Rs 2 lakh cover to family members in case of death due to accidents.

As many as 34,559 temples come under the ambit of the Muzrai Department, of which 175 are Class-A (with annual revenue of over Rs 25 lakh), 163 are Class-B (annual income between Rs 5-25 lakh) and 34,221 are Class-C (annual income of less than Rs 5 lakh). About 50,000 archaks, pradhan archaks, Group C and D employees work in these temples, but are not considered government employees. Their salaries are paid by the respective temple trusts. P5

Mysuru DC gets a call, in a 'quaran-dary'!

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

ON Friday, Mysuru Deputy Commissioner **Abhiram G Shankar** got a call and he answered it, not knowing that he would be pulled up for a crime he had not committed. He was taken aback when the voice on the other side warned him against breaching the quarantine rules. For a moment, he thought it was a prank call. But then, he told the caller that he was the Deputy Commissioner and that was indeed his number. The caller, however, refused to believe that it was the DC himself speaking and told him not to pull a fast one.

The DC may have solved many problems easily before but this time, it took him some time to convince the caller of his identity. Once convinced, the caller, a personnel of the quarantine watch team, profusely apologised to the DC and told him that a person under home quarantine was missing and his database had the DC's number.

It was later discovered that a man, the primary contact of a patient, had given the DC's number instead of his own to the authorities, before disappearing. So the quarantine watch team ended up tracking the DC's number, leading to a goof-up of the 'highest order'!

When contacted, the DC confirmed the incident and said that the man was a primary contact and they were verifying his test status. P5

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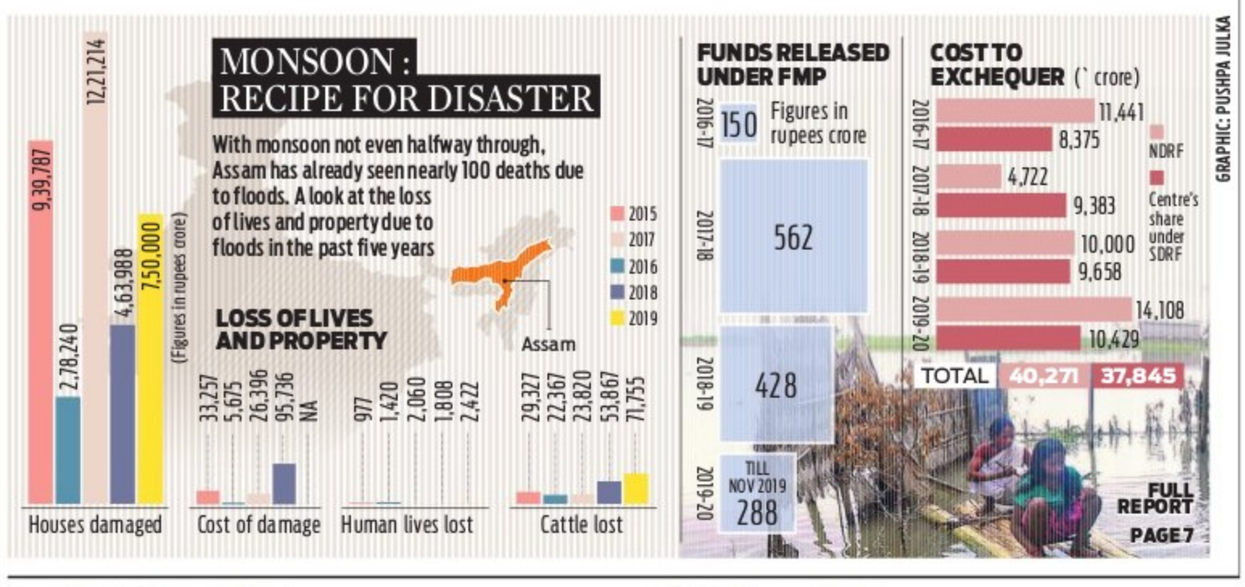

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	30% of the seats will be filled on the basis of +2 aggregate marks		
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THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS | SUNDAY STORY

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Sunday 26/07/2020 • Year: Sarvari • Ayana : Dakshinayana • Ritu: Varsha
Masa: Sravana • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Sashti 11.47 am • Nakshatra: Hastha 3.30 pm
Moon in Tula Rashi • Rahukaala: 04:30 pm to 06:00pm
Gulikakala: 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • Yamaganda: 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER WATCH
MIN 21°C | MAX 27°C
FORECAST Morning clouds

Sunrise 6.04 am
Sunset 6.48 pm
Moonrise 11.13 am
Moonset 11.30 pm

02 BENGALURU | SUNDAY 26.07.2020 | newindianexpress.com

Kiral Mahesh gets ready for a performance

THE VEERAGASE 'VEERA' OF MYSURU

Kiral Mahesh has been contributing immensely to preserve and promote this folk dance form

KARTHIK K K @Mysuru

WEARING headgear, metal ornaments all over the bright costume and a sword in the right hand, a 53-year-old man does an energy-sapping dance along with his team praising the Hindu god Veerabhadra during a village fair. And there is awe at his powerhouse performance.

Meet Kiral Mahesh, a senior folk artiste from Mysuru, who has dedicated his entire life to perform, strengthen and preserve 'Veeragase'-- a highly intense folk dance form of Karnataka.

Be it a village fair or a car festival, a marriage or a naming ceremony, a procession or a large-scale event like 'Dasara', Kiral Mahesh and his team will be there to mark the beginning of the event.

By performing Veeragase at thousands of events and mentoring hundreds in the last three decades, Kiral Mahesh has emerged as one of the senior folk artistes who have been contributing immensely for preserving and promoting this folk dance form. Two decades back, he set up Abhinava Veerabhadreshwara Nruthya Kala Tanda which has produced numerous young Veeragase artistes.

Born to Nagappa and Chennamma at a village called Kiral in Varuna hobli, Mysuru, Mahesh and his brother Swamy learnt Veeragase.

"Veeragase or Veerabhadra Kunitha has come to us down generations. I can recall three to four generations in my family who performed this dance.

> Kiral Mahesh is one of the senior folk artistes of the State. His dexterity and control over the dance are unmatched and the energy with which he performs even at this age is astounding
>
> Jogila Siddaraju, president, Akhila Karnataka Janapada Kalavidhara Okkuta

PICS: UDAYSHANKAR S

STORY OF VEERAGASE

Dakshabrahma decides to conduct yajna in his palace without inviting his daughter Daakshayini and son-in-law Lord Shiva. But Daakshayini goes uninvited against Lord' Shiva's wishes and is insulted by her father. Hurt and humiliated, she jumps into the holy fire. Lord Shiva who comes to know of it performs Rudra Tandava and from his perspiration emerges Veerabhadra. On the instruction of Lord Shiva, Veerabhadra destroys the Yagashala. The dance performed by a furious Veerabhadra is called Veeragase.

My father taught me this dance form. I used to join him whenever he went for a performance and began to grasp the best. As days passed, I learnt and improved observing other artistes who accompanied my father," says Kiral Mahesh.

Over the past three and half decades, Mahesh has performed not only in Karnataka but also across the country and even abroad.

"Veeragase is very popular in the old Mysuru region including Tumakuru and Chamarajanagar. The colourful attire, makeup, fast-paced dance sequences have ensured the popularity of this dance form. Shravana, Dasara and Karthika are the peak seasons. We get around 10 invitations to perform during the peak season which fetches a good amount of money for the artistes. When we first started giving performances, we were getting paid Rs 5 for a show but now we are paid in thousands depending on the event," says Mahesh.

Though he admits that there have been minor changes in the outfit of a Veeragase artiste, he says there has been no change in the dancing style.

Mahesh's children Bhaskar, a B.com graduate, and daughter Deepika have also learnt this folk art.

Karthik, a student of Mahesh, says, "I have learnt many things from him and he is a great inspiration to many budding artistes."

"Veeragase is a very dynamic and powerful dance form. One needs to be very dedicated, devoted and disciplined while practising and performing the art. Also if one needs to make a career out of it, they must invest at least Rs 1 lakh to purchase the costume, sword, headgear and other essentials required to perform," says Mahesh.

"Many senior artistes have contributed enormously to the folk arts. The government needs to recognise and honour them. This will encourage even the coming generations to continue the legacy. I appeal to the government to provide pension to the folk artistes," he says.

Considering his achievements, many organisations have conferred various awards and titles on him.

This auto driver's chosen path, an ode to Kannada

MALLIKARJUN HIREMATH @Dharwad

A humble autorickshaw driver in Dharwad with a heart that beats for Kannada – the soul of this land – is on a mission! At the helm of his steed, one caparisoned with Kannada vowels and consonants, Ranganath Heremani takes passengers to their destinations, while encouraging them along to use the state language, a pilgrimage he's been on for the last couple of years.

With reverence for the language not restricted to mere letters printed on his vehicle, Ranganath also keeps Kannada newspapers for passengers to read, while also providing them with free Wi-Fi, fan and drinking water as a service. Beyond passengers, his noble task also includes motivating fellow auto drivers to think of unique ways to popularise Kannada, besides encouraging youngsters of his locality to read Kannada novels during leisure.

Ranganath says that most people who can even read and write the language often tend to fail at reciting vowels and consonants at a stretch. But by looking at his vehicle, they quickly relate to what they know and refresh their memory. Meanwhile, for some, just a glance at the rickshaw arouses a sense of curiosity, and they end up reading a few letters.

The ultimate dream that is driving this auto driver is indeed big, and he's treading this chosen path to realise it. Ranganath says there are several government Kannada schools in the State, which fear shutting down, largely due to people preferring English-medium schools. However, if people, especially of the elite class, begin sending their children to Kannada schools, the latter stand a high chance of breathing easy. "To motivate and encourage such people is a small effort," he says.

Another interesting thing about Ranganath is that his mother tongue isn't Kannada. "Though Telugu is my mother tongue, all of us in my entire family speak in Kannada even at home. During my younger days, I changed school. At the interview, I was asked about vowels and consonants. I was prepared with the entire syllabus, but it was not of any use," he reminisces.

"I failed to give any proper answer and from that day, I thought there would be more people like me around, and there was a need to bring the change. For the last seven years, I have been trying my best to spread the message by word-of-mouth, and now with this idea, the reach has increased," he adds.

Ranganath attends most Kannada literary meets. "I have attended the Kannada Sahitya Sammelana held in Dharwad. I very rarely miss such programmes. Though I have not learnt much, I do know how to read and write Kannada. I am not against any language, but it is important to know the language of the land, and it is the duty of every individual to spread it on par with other languages from different lands," he says.

A passenger also expressed gratitude towards this auto driver, and said that his work might seem of little consequence, but it has a huge impact. It is common to find people shouting in front of the mic and offering suggestions to promote and use Kannada, but compared to such people, Ranganath is best at what he does, he says.

"Ranganath's efforts have forced us to think, and have inspired us to contribute to society. If everybody comes up with such a positive attitude to herald change, that change isn't far away. Though I cannot do much, I will at least change my vehicle number plate from English to Kannada," the passenger says.

Autorickshaw associations and people from around have felicitated Ranganath, who says humbly that he never sought any recognition or appreciation. "It's for my self-satisfaction. People will get motivated by my effort, and this is the only reward that makes me happy," he says.

Ranganath uses his autorickshaw to popularise Kannada | EXPRESS

> Government departments and authorities concerned should take note of such people and encourage them through publicity. However, it is surprising to see that nobody related to the language has noticed him nor his work. A number of people take photos of him along with his vehicle though.
>
> Jagadish Naik, a fellow auto driver

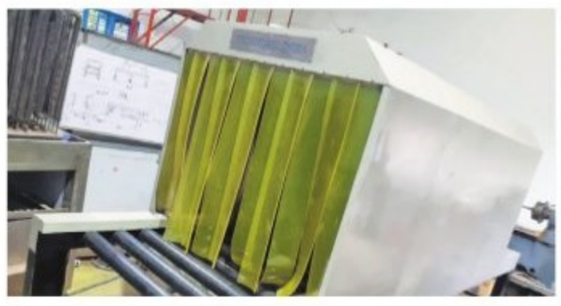
Baggage sanitising goes hi-tech at KSR Railway Station

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THE Bengaluru Railway Division will ensure that the baggage of all passengers are completely sanitised before they board their train from the KSR Bengaluru Railway Station. An Ultra Violet Baggage Bath which will disinfect all types of contamination using light is set to make its debut here early next week.

Speaking to *The New Sunday Express* about the UV Bath, A N Krishna Reddy, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, said, "This will have a far-reaching impact in stopping the virus in its tracks. Passengers can pass their baggage before they board the train and if they prefer even after alighting from it."

Explaining it features, Reddy said the machine has been uniquely designed by a Chennai-based startup for railway stations so that the surface of baggage can be disinfected. "It comprises an enclosed chamber with UVC light beaming in from all directions. It will disinfect virus, bacteria, all types of germs and pathogens from the surface of the baggage. This reduces an indirect mode of transmission of the Covid-19 virus from baggage to humans," he said.



The scanning machine designed by a Chennai-based startup for railway stations to disinfect the surface of the baggage | EXPRESS

The luggage will be handed back to the passenger with a sticker pasted on it to highlight it has been disinfected, Reddy said.

The Bath, a creation of Optimurz Bio and IT Solutions, also has an extended tunnel and UV-resistant flaps along the sides of the tunnel as a safety measure. The optional luggage disinfection process will be available free to public during the first month of launch. "A nominal change will be levied later after assessing the cost of operating it and patronage for it," Reddy added. If successful, it will be installed at Yesvantpur station next.

Another step towards enhancing passenger safety is also being taken by procuring five contactless vending machines that will supply masks, PPE kits and sanitizers to the public at KSR Bengaluru, Yesvantpur and Bengaluru Cantonment railway stations. Two machines have been installed at KSR station at Platform One and Platform Eight. TC2 Labs Private Ltd, which has been contracted with these machines, will extend it to more stations in the Bengaluru Division based on patronage.

HC rejects plea seeking stay on CBI probe against DKS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE High Court dismissed a petition filed by Shashi Kumar Shivanna, chief manager, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, challenging the state government's order giving consent to the CBI to probe purported violations of Prevention of Corruption Act provisions by KPCC president D K Shivakumar and others. Shivanna is Shivakumar's brother-in-law.

The state Home Department gave consent on September 25, 2019, under Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946, allowing the CBI to investigate the case.

Justice Nataraj Rangaswamy said the petition lacked merit and Shivanna has no locus standi to challenge the consent granted, as he is an officer of a Central government company.

"The apprehensions of the petitioner seem to be generated by the usage of the word 'sanction' instead of 'consent', and is ill-founded. The petitioner may have the right to question an inquiry if it is commenced by the CBI without Centre's approval, but he has no locus standi to challenge the impugned order of consent granted by the Home Department," the judge said.

The I-T Department had raided a property of Shivakumar in New Delhi in 2017, following which the Enforcement Directorate took up an investigation. It found that Shivakumar and others were involved in benami investments, with the KPCC president as the beneficiary.

COVID CRISIS

Crematorium fees waived off in B'luru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE State government on Saturday announced that the BBMP will bear the crematorium charges of those who succumb to Covid-19.

Revenue Minister R Ashoka said the decision was taken following media reports about difficulties faced by families in performing the last rites.

An incentive of ₹500 per body will be provided for the crematorium staffers. "This is in recognition of their services," he said.

He also clarified that the government has identified 23 acres of land at five places around Bengaluru for burials or cremations of Covid victims.

Words have the power to heal and destroy, say women leaders

AYESHA TABASSUM @Bengaluru

WORDS can either create or destroy. They can build nations or bring down dynasties and governments. These were some of the ideas discussed during 'The Power Of Words' panel discussion held on the first day of WEF Bangalore 2020, Global Digital Summit.

Moderated by author Roopa Pai, the online plenary session included speakers such as Lakshmi Menon, CEO of Express Publications (Madurai) Pvt Ltd India, Mita Kapur, Founder and CEO, Siyahi, Preethi Srinivasan, founder, Soulfree, Deepa Rao, author and entrepreneur, Lit Spirit, and Anuja Chauhan, author.

Each of the panelists shared their thoughts on how they perceive the idea of 'power of words'. The session began with Lakshmi Menon sharing her experience of being the CEO of a newspaper publication and what words mean to her. "Words have the power to heal and to destroy, so we must use words judiciously. As a newspaper, we sensitise our reporters to use words that create positivity rather than creating a sense of despair and hopelessness," she said.

She also shared that as a company, Express Publications (Madurai) Pvt Ltd India continues to keep up its legacy of fighting fault, but the real challenge is in reporting negative news. "Even when such stories are written, we look for hope in them and use words that highlight it. In fact, we have a Good News section to report all the positive stories," she added.

Anuja Chauhan, who is a well-known advertising professional (the person behind Pepsi's 'Yeh dil maange more' tagline) and author of popular books such as 'The Zoya Factor', 'Battle for Bittora' and 'Those Pricey Thakur Girls', spoke about how words hold a completely different meaning for her. "Words contain worlds inside them. They can make you or tear you apart. Lakshmi's (referring to Ms Menon) team carries a huge responsibility on its shoulders because headlines can create communities or destroy people," Anuja said. She further added, "I go to words for everything. It's (referring to words) like my best box of crayons. I use it for escapism or to look at the brighter side of life."

Express Publications (Madurai) Pvt Ltd CEO Lakshmi Menon (third from left) and other panelists at the panel discussion of WEF Bangalore 2020

Among other speakers, the founder of Soulfree, Preethi Srinivasan, narrated her inspiring story. She was the youngest member of the Tamil Nadu State Women's Cricket Team and was a National Level swimmer. But at the age of 18, a freak accident left her paralysed from neck down. However, the young woman fought against all odds and started Soulfree, an organisation that works for the rights of the disabled, particularly those with spinal cord injuries.

"After my accident, I had given up and was lashing out at my parents. I always asked 'why me?' Nothing was seeping into my system and that's when my father read out teachings by Ramana Maharshi and Nisargadatta Maharaj, and I realised the power of words. My father said, 'Everyone's body has to go, yours went away earlier than others, now you need to look within and find yourself'. These words stayed with me and I felt my soul was free, and this gradually led me to start Soulfree," said Preethi.

The session concluded on an optimistic note with each of the panelists sharing their most memorable and go-to words. Lakshmi Menon shared her favourite maxims, "Little do we realise that our ignorance is far more profound than knowledge. Words are like seeds, what we throw around will grow and someday we will have to eat that fruit."

WEF Bangalore 2020, a two-day global digital summit is jointly hosted by the ALL Ladies League and Women Economic Forum.

Police Commissioner Bhaskar Rao has sought a report on reasons for delay in completing investigation of cases such as communal incidents, crimes against women and children, and SC/ST Act cases, booked from 2019 up to the present. Rao said failure to submit chargesheets had caused hardship to the prosecution while objecting to bail petitions filed by the accused.

SUNDAY INTERVIEW

'REFORMS INEVITABLE FOR INDUSTRIAL REVIVAL'

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

THE state and its industries have suffered heavy losses because of the lockdown. But Large and Medium Scale Industries Minister Jagadish Shettar is confident that the New Industrial Policy 2020-2025 will achieve its goal of Rs 5 lakh crore in investments. With inputs from the World Economic Forum at Davos last year, Shettar and his department have made changes in land, labour and industrial laws, despite criticism from the opposition and labour unions. In an interview with TNSE, Shettar called the reforms "inevitable", given the present economic crisis.

What losses has the pandemic caused to industries?
Losses run into lakhs of crores and it is difficult to estimate. Every business has been hit as the lockdown stopped exports, markets and production. But the government has helped industries to function. The Centre's Atmanirbhar Bharat Scheme with PM Narendra Modi announcing loans of Rs 3 lakh crore for small-scale industries has helped.

With industrial activity resuming, what are the challenges?
Karnataka was the first state to open up industries. We addressed their concerns of paying electricity bills without any consumption, by waiving off minimum charges for MSMEs for two months and deferred payments for large and mega industries by three months. Manufacturing units dependent on local labour did not face the crunch, but the construction sector that needed skilled labourers suffered as workers went back home. But now, they are coming back.

Your government has issued ordinances to approve labour, land and industrial reforms. How do you respond to allegations that you are using the pandemic to undermine the Assembly?
PM Modi has repeatedly said 'ease of doing business' and 'single-window clearance' is the need of the hour. For this, we need reforms. The Industries Facilitation Act ensures that industries can be set up soon after high-level committees give approvals. If we wait till it comes to the Assembly, industries that want to set up units right away cannot do it. Since these are urgent reforms, ordinances were passed. Moreover, the House is not in session. Constitutionally, we have to take the Assembly's approval, but this is a crisis. We are confident of convincing the opposition.

Q&A

JAGADISH SHETTAR

Is the government overlooking labour and environmental laws?
Under the Industries Facilitation Act, industries still have to obtain the NOC from the pollution control board, permissions under building and labour laws and get trade licences. But we give them three years to get the required clearances. Industries can take their units till the operation stage and get the approvals in the meantime.

Even the RSS-affiliated Mazdoor Sangh has opposed labour reforms.
We have removed restrictions giving more choice to workers and the management. Increasing working hours will increase the capacity of labour. The Centre is holding talks with labour unions and so is our labour minister. They hope to convince the labour leaders.

What is the progress on the land audit?
I have ordered an audit of lands acquired through the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board since 1966. Most allottees have used the land for industry, but some have either kept it vacant or used only a part of it. We will cancel such allotments and re-allot the lands to industries. There is no deadline, but we hope to complete the audit in a month or two.

A year of managing crises for BSY

RAMU PATIL @Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister B S Yediyurappa will complete one year in office on Sunday. From devastating floods to the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been a year of crises management for the BJP veteran, even as his administration grapples with multiple challenges.

Karnataka was staring at a drought when Yediyurappa took over as CM for the record fourth time on July 26, 2019. In a few days, several districts were hit by devastating floods. Responding to the situation, the CM visited most of the flood-hit districts to oversee relief works. It was followed by ministry formation and the by-polls that ensured stability of the government formed with the support of leaders who switched sides, and also helped reassert his authority over the government and the party to some extent.

As chief minister, Yediyurappa seems to have managed the crises well, but his development agenda did not get the required push, even though he attempted to take it to the next level. He visited Davos to woo investors, and looked forward to implement announcements made in the budget. But mobilisation of resources became a big challenge. After the pandemic broke out, he made it clear that the focus would only be on fighting the dreaded disease, but the fiscal situation was not that bright.

BJP state unit general secretary and MLC N Ravi Kumar said that despite many challenges, the government had done well on all fronts. "From releasing funds to help those hit by devastating floods to announcing the Rs 2,200 crore special package during the pandemic, the government has done well," he said.

However, the government's has come under fire for taking the ordinance route to amend the Land Reforms Act, labour and industrial laws, and its handling of the Covid-19 situation -- especially in the last few weeks.

"He came to power through baptism by fire, and has remained in power through baptism by fire," said political analyst Prof Sandeep Shastri. "Covid overtook everything. There was some success initially, as the CM put his faith in the bureaucracy and experts, and did not allow too much space for political interference. It also saw several hiccups, and there was a rift within the government. There is a feeling that the government has not been able to come to grips with the problem."

Those working closely with the CM said that Yediyurappa has worked very hard to overcome all the challenges and crises. Once the state manages to overcome the pandemic, the focus will only be on development, they said.

EXPRESS READ

Govt to present one-year report card

Bengaluru: To mark the first year of the BS Yediyurappaled BJP government, a series of events have been planned across Karnataka. On Monday, the CM will release a booklet highlighting the achievements of the government. Deputy CM Dr C N Ashwath Narayan told media on Saturday, "The government launched relief works of Rs 6,000 crore, amended the Karnataka Land Reform Act, brought out the new industrial policy and introduced the Karnataka Digital Economy Vision." BJP MLC Ravi Kumar said District in-charge Ministers will deliver an address in their districts on Sunday. Various other events have also been lined up.ENS

Insurance for Cong corona warriors

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) will provide insurance under its Arogya Hasta scheme to its members working as coronavirus warriors.

Party president DK Shivakumar constituted a 20-member committee, headed by MLA Ajay Singh, to prepare a list of warriors in consultation with party leaders in all assembly segments. On Saturday, Shivakumar held a meeting with Singh and other leaders to discuss implementation of the initiative.

"The aim is to help the government in the fight against Covid-19. Our corona warriors will visit houses with thermal scanners and pulse oximeters to check the health of citizens. If required, they will refer people to hospitals," said M Ramalingaiah, former KPCC secretary and part of the 20-member committee.

Two Congress corona warriors will be assigned to each panchayat and ward, who will work similar to ASHA workers in assisting the local administration. The party has identified 15,000 youth who will work as warriors across the state.

QuoteExpress

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THEODORE ROOSEVELT

INDIAN INSTITUTES OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
(Autonomous Institutions under MHRD, Government of India)
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Amendments to BS/BS-MS Admission 2020

Due to Covid-19, the following amendments are made in the IISER Admissions 2020 as one time exception.

- The cut-off marks in 10+2 or eligibility for IISER Admissions in 2020 be modified as follows: 60% marks in aggregate or equivalent grades for General/ OBC and OBC-NCL categories and 55% for SC/ST/PWD in any boards OR the cut-off marks already announced for each of the boards in the admission website, whichever is lower.
- The last date for receiving online applications is extended up to **16th August 2020.**

Further details can be obtained from the website **http://www.iiseradmission.in**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: KPTCL/T(W&M)/MYS/SEE/EEE(O)/AEE-1 /19-20/1975-78 & 1988-91 Date : 20-07-2020

TENDER NOTIFICATION

E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL Invites tenders against following Enquiry No's mentioned against the works given below.

1) Bid Enquiry. No. **SEE/EEE(O)/AEE1/T(W&M)/MYS/ADNL/18** for Providing Spare 1X20 MVA 66/11kv Power Transformer at Bhogadhi 66/11kv Sub station in Mysuru Taluk & District.

2) Bid Enquiry. No. **SEE/EEE(O)/AEE-1/T(W&M)/MYS/19-20/LINE-05** for Providing Radial Connectivity for 66KV Hura S/s from 66KV proposed Chandravadi S/s in Nanjungud Tq Mysuru District.

The bids will be received through e-procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the E-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website : **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink "e-procurement" on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **27.07.2020**. Any other details can be had from office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elecl., Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, 1st Floor, Prasarana Bhavana, FTS Compound, N.R.Mohalla, Mysuru - 570 007 Phone : 0821-2455018.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: ST-OT-HDS-PRDP-SCADA-188, Dt. 17.07.2020

Name of Work: SIGNALLING AND TELECOM MAINTENANCE WORKS IN HARIDASPUR-PARADEEP NEWLINE (BG) IN KHURDA ROAD DIVISION IN DEPOSIT TERMS FOR A PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS.

Tender value: ₹2,25,78,168.72,**EMD:** ₹2,62,900/-, **Cost of Tender Document:** ₹11,800/- (Including 18% GST).

Bidding Start Date: 27.07.2020, **Date & time of Tender Closing:** 1100 hrs of 10.08.2020.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and if any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Complete information including e-Tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**

Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/ Khurda Road

PR-178/L/20-21

punjab national bank

CIRCLE OFFICE: RECOVERY DEPARTMENT
29-27, Raheja Towers, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560 001
Tel. No. 25095087, FAX No. 080-25584951

Corrigendum

With reference to the Sale Notice for **SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES for M/s Sansu Technologies Pvt Ltd and Sankar K,** the Borrower of **Peenya Branch,** published in this paper on **26.6.2020 under Sl No. 2 & 3. The outstanding amount of Rs.505 Lakhs** should be corrected to read as **Rs.127.51 Lakhs plus interest and charges.** All other conditions remains the same.

Authorised Officer
Punjab National Bank

Fullerton Grihashakti
Iraada hai toh Raasta hai

FULLERTON INDIA HOME FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Office: Floor 5 & 6, B-Wing, Supreme IT Park, Supreme City, Powai, Mumbai - 400076.
Regd. Office: Megh Towers, Floor 3, Old No. 307, New No. 165, Poonamallee High Road, Maduravoyal, Chennai - 600095.

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISO TO RULE 8 (6) AND 9(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Fullerton India Home Finance Company Limited / Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is"** on the date and time mentioned herein below, for recovery of the dues mentioned herein below and further interest and other expenses thereon till date of realization, due to Fullerton India Home Finance Company Limited / Secured Creditor from the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below. The Reserve Price, Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Last Date of EMD deposit is also mentioned herein below:

1) Date & Time of E-Auction: 31/08/2020 at 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM (with unlimited extensions of 5 minute each)
2) Date & Time for submission of Request Letter of Participate / KYC Documents / Proof of EMD, etc.: 29/08/2020

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Loan Account Numbers	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Description of the Immovable Property
1	**Loan Account No.: 601007210073172 & 601007510078195** **1) K C Udaya Kumar S/o Chikkamuniswamy,** **2) Radhamma G. W/o K C Udaya Kumar** **Add. 1:** No. 28, Muneshwara Nagar, 1st Cross Muneshwara Temple, Kattigenahalli, Bangalore - 560064, **Add. 2:** Meghana Rice Corner, No. 9, MMN Complex, Kattigenahalli Gate, Bagalur Main Road, Bangalore - 560063, **Add. 3:** Shop No. 8, Behind Kattigenahalli Bus Stop, Bagalur Main Road, Bangalore, Karnataka- 560064.	**Dated: 03.01.2020** **Rs. 46,84,366.97/-** (Rupees Forty Six Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Six and Ninety Seven Paise Only)	All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing extract of B Register bearing No. 2790/186/28, Old Site No. 28, Measuring East to West 39.00 feet and North to South 33.00 feet, formed in land bearing Survey No. 186 Situated at Kettegenahalli Village, Lala Hobli Bangalore North Taluk, comprising of a building bounded on the site under BSMP Limits, **East by-** 25 feet Road, **West by-** Private Property, **North by-** Property Bearing Site No. 29 and **South by-** Property Bearing Site No. 27. Within the registration District of Bangalore and Sub Registration Office of Yalahanka.
	Reserve Price: Rs. 55,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty Five Lakhs Only)	**Earnest Money Deposit: Rs. 5,50,000/-** (Rupees Five Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only)	**Incremental Value: Rs. 50,000/-** (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)
2	**Loan Account No.: 601007510417963** **1) Krishnamurthy D S/o Dasyanaik 2) Suma D W/o Krishnamurthy D** **3) Subramanya Enterprises (Proprietors- Suma D / Krishnamurthy D)** **Add. 1:** No. 7, Geetha Nilaya, 1st Floor, 4th Cross, Shidedahalli Main Road, Sampangiramayya Layout, Bone Mill, Nagasandra Post, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560073, **Add. 2:** No 102, 4th Main, 5th Cross, Govindarajanagar, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560040, **Add. 3:** Site No. 50, Municipal No. 50, Old Muncipal No. 10, Kathriguppe Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, Karnataka.	**Dated: 06.01.2020** **Rs. 34,55,481.14/-** (Rupees Thirty Four Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Four Hundred Eighty One and Fourteen Paise Only)	All that Piece and parcel of Property Bearing Site No. 50, Municipal No. 50, Old Municipal No. 10, PID No. 51-119-50, Measuring East to West 25 Feet and North to South 35 Feet, in total measuring 875 Sq.ft., situated at Kathriguppe Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, now under the Jurisdiction of BBMP and **bounded by, East by-** Property Bearing Site No. 51, **West by-** Property belongs to Subbalakshmamma, **North by-** Road and **South by-** BDA Property. Within the Registration District of Bangalore and Sub Registration Office at Banashankari..
	Reserve Price: Rs. 50,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty Five Lakhs Only)	**Earnest Money Deposit: Rs. 5,00,000/-** (Rupees Five Lakhs Only)	**Incremental Value: Rs. 50,000/-** (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)
3	**Loan Account No.: 601007510131172** **1) Munagala Srinivasulu S/o Ramanaiah Munagala** **2) Munagala Kammeshwaramma W/o Ramanaiah Munagala** **Add. 1:** No. 7, P R Layout, Munnekolal, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560037, **Add. 2:** Flat No. 001 and 005 Ground Floor, Samaikyas Sri Sai Sannidhi, BBMP Khatha No. 1324, Sy No. 37/2, Chinnappanahalli Village, Bangalore, Karnataka.	**Dated: 03.01.2020** **Rs. 50,42,381.70/-** (Rupees Fifty Lakhs Forty Two Thousand Three Hundred Eighty One and Seventy Paise Only)	All that Piece of land known as Flat No. 001 and 005, both in Ground Floor of the building known as Samaikya's Sri Sai Sannidhi Apartments" both consisting of Three Bed Rooms, having built up area of 1315 Sq.ft. and 1250 Sq.ft., respectively, along with one car parking facility for each flat in Stilt Floor and 259 sq.ft + 259 Sq.ft ., together 518 Sq. ft. Undivided Share, Right, Title, Interest in the site constructed in BBMP Khata No. 1324, 1324/1, 1324/2 and 1324/3 measuring about 12.8 Guntas or 13612.50 Sq.ft., in converted land bearing Sy. No 37/2, Chinnappanahalli Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, now under the limit of BBMP and **bounded on the, East by-** Road Formed in Sy.No. 37/2, **West by-** Road Formed in Sy.No. 37/2, **North by-** Road Formed in Sy.No. 37/2 and **South by-** Road Formed in Sy.No. 37/2. Within the Registration District of Bangalore and Sub Registration Office at Indiranagar.
	Reserve Price: **Flat No. 001 - Rs. 42,00,000/-** (Rupees Forty Two Lakhs Only) **Flat No. 005 - Rs. 40,00,000/-** (Rupees Forty Lakhs Only)	**Earnest Money Deposit:** **Flat No. 001 - Rs. 4,20,000/-** (Rupees Four Lakhs Twenty Thousand Only) **Flat No. 005 - Rs. 4,00,000/-** (Rupees Four Lakhs Only)	**Incremental Value:** **Rs. 50,000/-** (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) for each property
4	**Loan Account No.: 601007210266043.** **1) Raghavendra B H 2) Sudha S 3) Sirimugil Enterprises** **Add. 1:** Resi No. 162, Puttaiah Compound, Bangalore North, RMV Extension, 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560094, **Add. 2:** No. 2264, Ground Floor, LIG, 7th B Main, Near Yelahanka New Town, BMTC Bus Stop, 3rd Stage, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore - 560064.	**Dated: 27.05.2019** **Rs. 44,99,206.65/-** (Rupees Forty Four Lakhs Ninety Nine Thousand Two Hundred Six & Sixty Five Paise Only)	Site No. 3, Formed in converted Sy. No. 11/2, Thatamachanahalli, Amanikere Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devenahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, under the limit of Venkatagirikote Village Panchayat, measuring East to West 64 Feet, North to South 68 Feet in all 4352 Sq.Ft. and **bounded on the, East by-** Sy. No. 13/3, **West by-** Road, **North by-** Sy. No. 11/1 and **South by-** Sy. No. 12/1.
	Reserve Price: Rs. 28,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakhs Only)	**Earnest Money Deposit: Rs. 2,80,000/-** (Rupees Two Lakhs Eighty Thousand Only)	**Incremental Value: Rs. 50,000/-** (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)
5	**Loan Account No.: 601007210247479** **1) Sai Elahgovan J S/o, Jayachandran** **2) Sai Agalya W/o, Sai Elahgovan J** **3) Ultra Infra Enterprises (Proprietors- Sai Agalya / Sai Elahgovan J)** **Add. 1:** No. 1, 1st Floor, Vega Arcade, 6th A Main Ombr Layout Banaswadi, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560043, **Add. 2:** No. 16, 7th Main, 80 FT Road 1st Block, Kormangala, Bangalore, Karnataka- 560034, **Add. 3:** Property No. 01, Katha No. 855/1/582/M/34/, Kodigehalli Village, Yelahanka, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560092.	**Dated: 13.03.2020** **Rs. 1,19,17,784.66/-** (Rupees One Crore Nineteen Lakhs Seventeen Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Four and Sixty Six Paise Only)	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No. 1, Old V. P. Khata No. 582/M, Khatha No. 855/1/582/M/34/3-4/1, Assessment Nos. 34/3 & 34/4, situated at Kodigehalli Village, Yalahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, now under the limit of BBMP, measuring East to West: 40 feet, North to South: 36 feet and adjacent property measuring East to West: (51+46)/2 feet, in all 4641 Sq.Ft., and **bounded on the, East by-** 30 feet wide Road, **West by-** Private Property belonging to Bidlur Ramachandra, **North by-** Portion of same property bearing No. 582/M/1 and **South by-** Property No. 2, belonging to Sri. Ramesh Basappa. Within the registration district of Bangalore and Sub Registration Office at Gandhinagar.
	Reserve Price: Rs. 1,40,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Forty Lakh Only)	**Earnest Money Deposit: Rs. 14,00,000/-** (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Only)	**Incremental Value: Rs. 50,000/-** (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)
6	**Loan Account No.: 601007210371270** **1) Santhosha H P, 2) Shantharaj D S** **3) Sri Mahalakshmi Medicals & General Stores** **(Proprietors- Santhosha H P / Shantharaj D S)** **Add. 1:** No. 135, 5th Cross, Near Andanappa Circle, Thotadaguddadahalli, Bangalore - 560073, **Add. 2:** No. 31/81, GF, Thotadaguddadahalli, Anandappa Circle, Opp. Dodda Aralimara Katte, Bonemil to Kuduregere Road, Bangalore - 560073, **Add. 3:** No. 53, Khata No. 83/53, Asst No. 83, Huralichikkanahalli Village, Bangalore, **Add. 4:** No. 31/81, GF Anandappa Circle, Opp Aralimara Katte, Kuduregere Main Road, Thotadaguddadahalli, Bangalore - 560073.	**Dated: 04.09.2019** **Rs. 6,60,303.52/-** (Rupees Six Lakhs Sixty Thousand Three Hundred Three and Fifty Two Paise Only)	All that Piece and Parcel of the Property bearing No. 53, Khatha No. 83/53, Assessment No. 83 of Huralichikkanahalli Village, Hesarughatta Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Under the limit of Huralichikkanahalli Village Panchayath, Measuring East to West: 30 Feet, North to South: 20 Feet, in all 600 Sq.ft, and **bounded on the, East by-** Property No. 45, **West by-** Road, **North by-** Property No. 52 and **South by-** Property No. 54 Within the registration district of Bangalore and Sub Registration Office at Peenya.
	Reserve Price: Rs. 4,50,000/- (Rupees Four Lakh Fifty Thousand Only)	**Earnest Money Deposit: Rs. 45,000/-** (Rupees Forty Five Thousand Only)	**Incremental Value: Rs. 50,000/-** (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Fullerton India Home Finance Company Limited / Secured Creditor's website i.e. **www.grihashakti.com.** The intending bidder can also contact to **Mr. Rahul Raje on his Mob. No. 7619183645 / 7348871575 (E-mail ID: rahul.raje@fullertonindia.com).**

Sd/-
Authorized Officer,
Fullerton India Home Finance Company Limited

Place: Bangalore
Date: 24.07.2020

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CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SURMA SREENIVAS ACHAR,** D/o Sri Madivala Narasimha Murthy, W/o Mr. H.R. Sreenivas, age 65 years, R/o No. 35, 29th Cross, 7th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-70 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **VASUDHA S ACHAR** to **SURMA SREENIVAS ACHAR,** hereafter I shall be known and called as **SURMA SREENIVAS ACHAR** only for all practical purposes, vide affidavit dated 25th July 2020, sworn before Advocate and Notary **B.G. Sriram** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RATNAMMA K C,** spouse of C S NAIR resident of No. 2154, Abbegere Main Road, Munikrishnappa Compound, Kammagondanahalli, Near Railway Bridge, Jalahalli West, Bangalore – 560015, have changed my name from **RATNAMMA K C** to **RATHNAMMA K C,** vide Affidavit Dated 14-07-2020, sworn before Addl. District Judge, Bangalore District, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ARUNESH KUMAR SHARMA,** S/o. Rama Kant Sharma, Resident of No. 302, A Block, HRC Ibbani Apartments, Arkavathi Layout, Jakkur, Bengaluru - 560 064, have changed my name from **ARUNESH KUMAR** to **ARUNESH KUMAR SHARMA.** Vide affidavit dated 24-07-2020 sworn before Advocate & Notary Smt. Rajamani, Bangalore.

MATCH MAKER

FOR REQUIREMENT of all Naidu grooms/brides- Naidu Maga Sangam. Remarriages also. Horoscope matching. Manoharan 94456 88215. CL00334776

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PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my client **C.S. GOPAL S/O LATE SUBBANNA** has lost the under mentioned documents and in this regard, a complaint with the police Vide No. PO 1384200600236 dated: 24-07-2020 has been lodged. Any person finding the said documents may hand over the same to the undersigned and get suitably rewarded.

a) Sale Deed dt: 14-06-2012 of the property bearing No.90/E, 6th Block, Anjinapura Layout, Bangalore, No. BDA-1-00888 / 2012-13, CD No. BDAD177.
b) P.C. dated 22.06.2012, Serial No. 107359, issued by BDA in favour of myself.
c) Allotment Letter dated 02.04.2011, Serial No. 061632, issued by BDA.
d) Sale Deed of Vacant Site No.568, No. 1, B.H.C.S Layout, (BTM Scheme) BG Road, Bangalore No.KENG-1-10071/2000-01, CD No. KENG D52, dated 25.01.2001 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Kengeri, Bangalore.

B.G. SRIRAM, Advocate
65, 13th Main, 4th Block East, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560 011.
Ph: 080 26536651

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform General Public that my client/s, is intending to purchase an immovable property bearing Municipal No.4012 (earlier site No:4012, carved out of lands in Sy.No.42/2 & 51/1 of Yediyur Village, Bangalore South Taluk), now situated at K R Road, Second Stage Banashankari, Bangalore, Corporation Ward No:166 (old ward No:56), PID Nos:56-50-4012, bounded on the East by : K R Road, West by : Private Land, North by : Property bearing No:4013 and South by : Property bearing No:4011, measuring East to West: (88+80)/2 ft and North to South: 40 ft., belonging to Smt. Sunitha Gupta, Wife of Sri.Shravan Gupta, aged about 58 years, residing at property bearing No: A-2201, Beau Monde, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai – 400 025.

Any, person, having any claim over the above property claiming through the predecessors in title or any other person, may lodge their objections or claims, in writing with all supporting documentary evidence by registered post with regard to such claim with the undersigned within Fifteen (15) days hereof, failing which my client/s will proceed to conclude the Sale Transaction. Any claims lodged thereafter will not be entertained by my client/s;

N S SATYANARAYANA GUPTA
K S NAYAK, N S RACHANA
N C JANARDHAN, Advocates
Rachana Law Associates,
"Lakshmideep", I Floor,
No:2980, 17th Cross, Banashankari II Stage, BANGALORE – 560 070;
PH : 26761209 / 26765286
Dt: 25-07-2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client Sri Nagaraju.B. S/o. Basavaraju R/a. No. 09, 1st 'D' Cross, Nagadevanahalli, Bengaluru-560056, has negotiated to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from its owner Sri M. Manjunath S/o.Late Muniyappa and he purchased the Schedule Property from the erstwhile owner Smt. Kamala Srinivasan W/o.Late M.A.Srinivasan and who had lost/misplaced the originals of the title documents in respect of the Schedule Property. Anyone claiming objections/claims if any to the proposed transaction of sale or regarding the lost/misplace of the original title documents in respect of below Schedule Property may be lodged with the undersigned within 07 (Seven) days from hereof, failing which our client shall finalise the transaction on the basis of Certified Copy. Objections received beyond the said period shall not be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Residential immovable property bearing present BBMP No.207, PID No.34-127-207, the lay-out formed by "THE KALYAN CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETY LTD" in the lands in Sy.Nos.251,258/1,2,3,4,5,6 & 7, 238/2, 261/1 & 2, 261/1 & 2, 240, 253/1 & 2, 254/1 & 2, 256/2, 255/2 & 265/3 Situated at Kempapura Agrahara, Bangalore North Taluk, as per the plan sanctioned by the Bangalore Development Authority vide its letter bearing No.BDA/TPM/293/76-77, dated 19.08.1976 and the Schedule Property comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP Bangalore, presently at 7th Main Road, Kalyan Co-Op H.B.C.S. Layout (R.P.C. Layout) Hampinagar, Ward No-34, Bangalore, measuring East to West 30 Ft. or 9.12 Mtrs and North to South 50Ft. or 15.20 Mtrs, totally measuring 1500 Sq. Ft. or 138.62 Sq. Mtrs, with 12 Squares of R.C.C. roofed building built in 1982 and bounded on: East by : Property No.206, West by : Property No.208, North by : 30 feet Road, South by : Property No.174.
Bengaluru, Date: 26.07.2020,

Raghavendra Gowda, Advocate,
No.20, 'Chaitra', 6th Cross, 8th Main, Vasanthanagar, Bengaluru-560052.
Mob.7349050709.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of the President of India Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (C) North Western Railway, Jaipur invites E- Tenders against tender no. S&T/91R (NWR/SC/JP-RGS-Churu/ST-615141303) (Double packet system). **(1) Name of work with its location:** Design, manufacture, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Microprocessor based Electronic Interlocking (EI) system in "Hot Stand By Mode" at five stations named Kayamsar (QMSR), Rasheedpura Khori (RDK), Goriyan (GIO), Baori Thikria (BOTI) and Chhota Gudha (COD) stations, and Mid-Section Interlocked LC Gates for execution of indoor and outdoor Signalling & Telecom works which includes excavation of trench, laying of cables, casting of foundations of MACLS Signals & apparatus cases, erection/ installation of MACLS signals, fixing & wiring of track circuits & point machines, centralized operation of points & signals, installation of telecom equipments etc as per RE standard in connection with Gauge Conversion work in Jaipur-Sikar-Churu Section of Jaipur division on North Western Railway. **(2) Approximate cost of work:** ₹19,43,26,960.94/- **(3) Earnest Money:** ₹11,21,600.00/- (Online payment) **(4) Date & Time for submission on www.ireps.gov.in:** 17.08.2020 up to 15.00 Hrs. **(5) Website particulars and notice board location:** www.ireps.gov.in and Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (Const.), office, Opposite Railway Hospital, Hasanpura Road, Jaipur-302006 678-DK/20

Contact helpline no. 182 for railway security complaints

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

COVID-19

04 BENGALURU SUNDAY 26.07.2020

TRACKING COVID-19

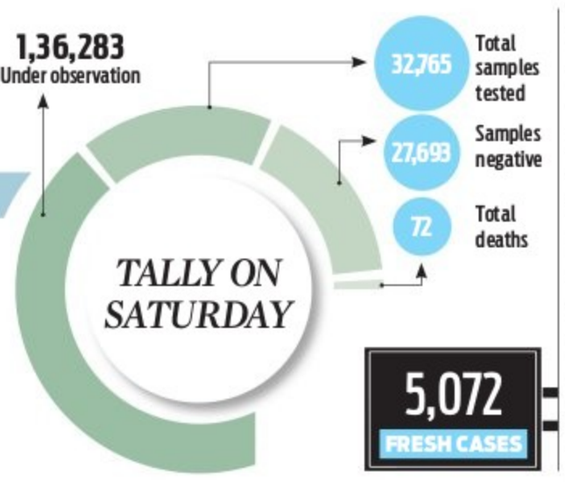
Health Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Pandey, during a meet with CEOs and DSOs, said all those who give their swabs should be sent an SMS with test results within 24 hours. In districts, results have to be given within 72 hours

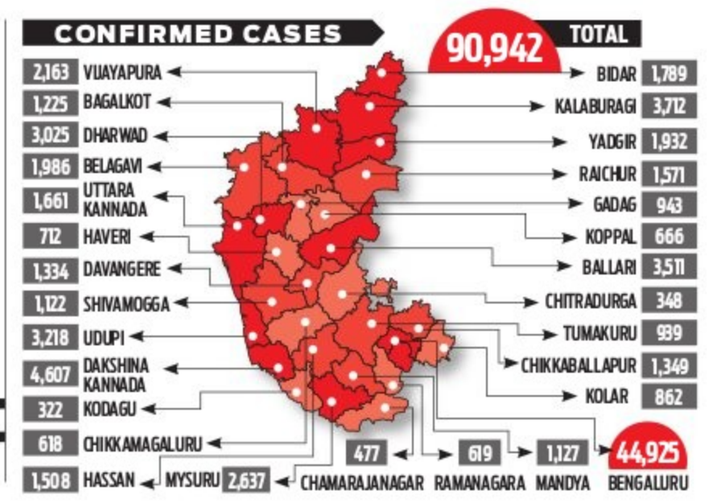
2,403 NEW RECOVERIES

33,750 TOTAL RECOVERED

HELPLINES
080-46848600
080-66692000

104 Arogya Sahayavani will function too





LOW ANTIBODIES AMONG RECOVERED, DOCS IN SHOCK

Plasma donation hits roadblock; doesn't look like a natural virus, as it is behaving differently from one person to another: Doc

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

THE state's first plasma bank was inaugurated at HCG Hospital on July 21, and soon after, 147 donors came forward to donate their plasma. But many of them do not have the required immunity levels, or IgG (Immunoglobulin G) antibodies, which does not allow them to donate the plasma. But more worryingly, these cured patients could be open to a Covid infection again because of their low immunity levels to the virus.

IgG develops 14 days after the infection and keeps increasing for more than six months to a year and more. It prevents repeat infection of a particular disease.

Dr Niveditha Jayaram, Laboratory Director, Streamed Life Sciences, HCG Hospital, said, "When Covid infects a person, between the fifth and seventh day of infection, the body develops its first line of defence - IgM antibodies. It peaks and comes down by the 21 day. Meanwhile, on the 14th day, IgG comes into play and

titres of IgG keep increasing and will remain in the body for a long time. But in these recovered patients, the IgG is disappearing soon and they are open to reinfection."

Dr Vishal Rao, Associate Dean, Centre for Academics and Research, HCG Cancer Hospital, and a member of the Covid consultative group, said, "We found that a few recovered patients who had come to donate plasma did not have the antibodies, which was an eye-opener for us. Our immunology team is now checking as to why these patients are not developing IgG."

Dr Niveditha said that they have checked all healthy, recovered patients in the age group of 20-30 years who have not shown the required IgG levels. "It does not look like a natural virus, as it is behaving differently from one person to another. We have seen patients with good amounts of antibodies and we ask them to report back after four weeks to donate the plasma. But when they come back, we see that their antibodies counts are low, which is surprising. They cannot donate their plasma as it does not help the other individual."

She said, "A vaccination may help to a certain extent, but we don't know how long long it protects us."

Dr Sachin Jadhav, Group Head of Haematology and Bone Marrow Transplant, HCG, said that across the world, nearly 80% of recovered patients have not generated required quantities of antibodies, and it should not be a cause for concern. "Many have been reinfected as well. We don't have the neutralising antibody titre test in our country that can exactly check patients who have antibodies," he said.

EXPRESS IMPACT

Chief Secy asks officers to report to nodal officers

Bengaluru: Chief Secretary T M Vijay Bhaskar issued a circular on July 25 with detailed guidelines for government officers to appear before the nodal authority and to report for duty to collect data on Covid patients. This was after TNIE published a report with the headline'Lockdown a waste? Data not collected' on July 23, pointing out that committees had failed to collect required Covid data as planned. It was also reported that the original objective of collecting data on ILI and SARI patients during the lockdown did not work because the government had failed to identify, train and put health officials on the field as planned during the lockdown between July 14 and 22, and that several officials had not reported to work. **ENS**

Phase IV trials of Itolizumab to begin soon

CHETANA BELAGERE @Bengaluru

DOCTORS who conducted initial trials of the repurposed drug, Itolizumab — manufactured by Bengaluru-based Biocon, to treat Covid patients say that the trials were successful and the drug can be used for emergencies. But the approval by the Drugs Controller General of India to market the drug has brought about mixed reactions and some experts believe that the study on which the approval is based has shortcomings.

Dr Hemant Thacker of Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital, one of the first doctors to carry out the clinical trials, told TNSE, "During the trials, I saw success with 21 patients and another nine admitted to the ICU. At a time when the world is grappling with no cure and there are medicines showing results, we should appreciate them."

He said the drug acted well on moderately-severe and severely-ill patients. Many patients with initial oxygen saturation levels of less than 80 per cent, who normally would need ventilator support with little chance of survival, recovered when treated with Itolizumab.

Questioning the sample size of the trials, Dr Arvinder Soin, researcher and chairman, Medanta Liver Institute, said, "The study results are not peer-reviewed by external validators and experts yet. There is scanty evidence to allow use of the drug. It is just another in the growing list of drugs for off-label emergency use, but with no proven efficacy for routine use. What we need is a safe drug that would work for most if not all patients, and for that, proving efficacy and safety in a phase-3 randomised controlled trial with a larger sample size is the gold standard."

Itolizumab, approved in 2013, is used to treat psoriasis and is considered safe.

Dr Vishal Rao, head and neck oncologist at HCG, who is also working on cytokine therapy to cure mild and moderate patients, said, "Phase-3 clinical studies are important to establish the drug's efficacy, even if there is enough data and being an old drug being repurposed for Covid. To make it global, it's important to convince regulatory authorities about its safety."

Biocon Chief Kiran Majumdar-Shaw said, "The company will conduct a larger trial or phase-IV soon. DGCI has clearly stated that we have got a restricted emergency use approval for this drug and must conduct a larger phase IV trial."

She had earlier said the data will be published in journals. "Over 150 patients have benefitted from this off-label. They may not have been on a clinical trial but all of them have recovered," she added.

Members of SUCI(C) protest against the failure of the state government in handling the pandemic, in Bengaluru on Saturday | PANDARINATH B

Covid warrior turned down by 7 hospitals dies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

IN a sad state of affairs, a Covid warrior, who contracted the virus, was left to fend for herself when she needed medical attention the most. She was denied admission to seven hospitals, and after spending the entire Friday night looking for a hospital bed, she succumbed on Saturday afternoon, just 30 minutes after being admitted to Bowring Hospital.

Forty-two-year-old Dilnaz Begum, affectionately known as Naaz Madam, was a resident of SK Garden, and was a teacher at the DJ Halli Government Urdu Model School. She was involved in creating awareness on the infection, distributing essentials during the lockdown and taking up Covid surveys among other works.

"She had fever three days back and was tested positive. On Friday night, she started having breathing trouble. She tried getting an ambulance and made many calls, but no help came. With an oxygen cylinder, she went around in an autorickshaw looking for a hospital bed, but to no avail. The hospitals also did not have display boards on how many beds are available and occupied (which is mandated by the government)," an associate of Dilnaz said.

The incident has infuriated locals, the victim's family members and even opposition political parties. They questioned the government and the administration that if this can happen to a Covid warrior, then it can happen to anyone else too.

Former Mayor Sampath Kumar said he has demanded stern action against hospitals that denied treatment to Dilnaz.

Ramaiah hospital to add 160 more Covid beds

ENS @Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan visited MS Ramaiah Memorial Hospital on Saturday to look into the arrangements in place to treat Covid patients. The hospital, which has already reserved 340 beds for Covid patients, will be increasing its capacity to 500 beds in the next two weeks. However, the staff also expressed concern over a shortage of the drug Remdesivir.

"Despite repeated requests, several private hospitals are not allocating 50 per cent of their beds to the government for Covid treatment. M S Ramaiah Hospital, however, has voluntarily decided to cooperate, and will add 160 more beds," the DyCM said.

Narayan also requested the hospital management to increase the number of ventilators from the present five to 25, and add a minimum of 50 to 100 ICU beds to the already-existing 50. The hospital, meanwhile, has urged the government to ensure supply of Remdesivir, to which the DyCM responded saying he will take immediate action.

MS Ramaiah Group and Ramaiah Medical College head Sreenivasa Murthy said that despite precautionary measures, around 10 per cent of hospital staff has tested positive for Covid-19 while treating patients, and that the hospital is grappling with a shortage of medical staff. Murthy also assured support to the government in providing doctors and paramedical staff to KC General Hospital.

AGE FACTOR

No comorbidity, but state's oldest Covid patient dies

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

THE state's oldest Covid-positive patient — a 105-year-old man — passed away on Saturday at 9 am after his condition deteriorated on Friday.

The retired government accountant and resident of Basaveshwaranagar caught the virus from his caretaker, and was diagnosed with Influenza-Like Illness before being admitted at Pristine Hospital and Research Centre on June 20.

Initially, his condition was stable, and he was admitted to the Covid ward. However, on Wednesday, he was shifted to the ICU as his blood pressure had started to fall. On Friday morning, his condition worsened, and he was put on a non-invasive ventilator support.

Speaking to TNIE, Dr HM Prasanna, managing director, Pristine Hospital, said, "When the patient's blood pressure started to fall, we hydrated him and he was stable. On Friday, we saw that his cell count was high and we assumed it was sepsis. He was then put on ventilator support. However in the evening, his oxygen saturation levels dropped drastically, and we intubated him with ventilator support. When a patient's condition deteriorates like this, especially if they are 80 years and above, it is difficult to revive them."

Initially, the hospital didn't have Remdesivir and Dr Prasanna had requested Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar to supply some. When this didn't work, the hospital procured it from a pharmaceutical company. "He didn't have any comorbidity - it was the age factor at play here," the doctor added.

Workers seal a road near KR Market to prevent people from roaming around, in Bengaluru on Saturday | SHRIRAM BN

SQUAD CONFIRMS OVERCHARGING; 22 PATIENTS GET REFUND

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE number of Covid-19 cases continued to rise in Karnataka with the State hitting the 90,000 plus mark with 5,072 cases, bringing the total tally to 90,942 cases. However, the good news on Saturday was that the State saw a single day high discharge of 2,403, taking the total discharges to 33,750..

With the cases seeing a sharp rise, the complaints of non-availability of beds and private hospitals fleecing or refusing to admit patients have been pouring in. Interestingly, the seven squads consisting of IAS and IPS officers that was recently tasked with the responsibility to ensure bed availability and reservation found several hospitals flouting the norms.

In one such case, the team led by two officers Harsh Gupta and D Roopa ensured that 22 patients got a refund of Rs 24 lakh which was taken illegally by a private hospital in Bengaluru. The officers found that the hospital in RR Nagar was collecting ₹1 lakh as advance to admit a Covid-19 patient.

According to sources, the private hospitals are not happy with the cap on the fee.

"One of the issues we found is that the number of beds available is not the exact number shown by the BBMP. We have asked the hospitals to update the bed availability so that the BBMP does not send more patients there," Roopa, IPS officer, told TNSE.

Officers in-charge of six other teams also informed TNSE of similar discrepancies. "There are so many beds vacant. We have been telling them to allot the beds. We are awaiting a clear order from the government so that private hospitals abide by it," said Alok Kumar, senior officer in-charge of four hospitals along with Gaurav Gupta.

21 committees in B'luru, but cases still rising

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

DESPITE 21 committees, comprising IAS and IFS officers, overseeing the management of Covid in Bengaluru, positive cases are skyrocketing in the city.

These are in addition to the seven zonal committees that have bureaucrats and politicians and a special committee of IAS and IPS officers to look at the availability of beds at private hospitals. All these committees have just two or three officials.

The high number of committees came to light when the information was collated and submitted to Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa recently. It has now caught the attention of the World Health Organisation and private medical fraternity.

A senior doctor at a private hospital, who is in the advisory committee to the government, felt that though the committees are good, there is no one to implement their suggestions on the ground.

"This is due to the government not decentralising Covid management yet. We have pointed it out, but nothing has been done. I wonder how many are working on the field as complaints against the BBMP continue to pour in every day," he said.

"Lack of efforts by the government in containing the number of positive cases in Bengaluru has also been noted by WHO members," he said.

BBMP Commissioner N Manjunath Prasad said 10,000 more staffers are being deployed and many volunteers roped in to make an impact on the ground.

MEGA MEDICARE

India's biggest Covid Care Centre at BIEC to open tomorrow

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

THE much-touted India's biggest Covid Care Centre at Bengaluru International Exhibition Centre will start taking in patients from Monday.

While the centre has been set up to house 10,100 patients, it will open 6,500 beds in five halls in the first phase. Three halls with remaining beds have been kept for paramedical, medical and police personnel. This facility is in addition to the existing nine CCCs in the city.

Rajendra Kumar Kataria, in charge nodal officer for CCCs in the city, told TNIE that at present they are busy checking the facility — doing a fire drill, storing PPE kits, medicines, marking and dividing facilities in red and green zone, management of each hall, noting of data base and allocation of beds to patients.

"After BIEC got into controversy, the government had decided to reduce the number of beds, but with the rising cases it has been decided to open 6,500 beds in the first phase and also look for additional 6,500 bed space in government housing colonies like BDA unoccupied flats in Kengeri and police quarters and even nationalised bank quarters and other government quarters," a government official said.

Meanwhile, the Opposition has alleged that water connection has not been given. But Kataria said the centre has a facility with a capacity of one and half lakh litres per day. "There would have been a shortage if all 10,000 beds were occupied. But with the present capacity of 6,500 beds where on an average a person needs 70 litres a day, there will be no problem," he said.

The fire and emergency department has given clearance for the CCC and said that in case of emergency, a facility to sprinkle water has been provided.

The Covid Care Centre at BIEC will take patients from Monday | SHRIRAM BN

Swapna reveals role of 2 UAE envoys

Gold smuggling case: 'Diplomats were paid every time the baggage cleared airport check'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

SWAPNA Swapna Suresh, the second accused in the Thiruvananthapuram gold smuggling case, has confided in Customs sleuths that two top diplomats at the UAE consulate here were fully aware of the smuggling activities.

She also reportedly disclosed that the two envoys at the UAE mission had been paid every time the 'baggage' successfully cleared the airport check.

A source said the accused had successfully conducted the operation 18 times since September 2019 and an estimated 150-180 kg of gold was thus brought in illegally under the cover of diplomatic baggage. Swapna had stated this before the Customs sleuths on Friday.

The Customs will seek custody of Swapna and third accused Sandeep Nair on Monday.

"Swapna has named two diplomats who had been paid for bringing gold through the diplomatic channels. Both have left India. She said that a sum of $1,500 was given to the diplomats every time a baggage arrives. We are verifying her claims. Right from the time the probe started, we have come across several pieces of evidence which reveal the involvement of diplomats," said the source.

However, the Customs doesn't expect to be granted access to diplomats anywhere soon. The agency has communicated the matter to the Ministry of External Affairs. "Sandeep and first accused Sarith had earlier been colleagues in a private company. They brought in Swapna due to her influence at the UAE consulate. We are not sure whether we can get even a statement from the diplomats in this regard since they have already left the country," a source said.

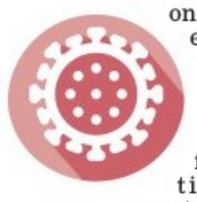
Around 80 per cent of Customs' probe into the case has been completed. To ensure that there are no legal loopholes, the investigation officer in the case appeared before the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (Economic Offence) daily. "We want to ensure that the legal aspects in the case are also foolproof. Now, the remaining probe will focus on the Dubai operations of the network," the source added.

'False identities slowing down contact tracing'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ASKED about the whereabouts of the person, the DC said that the person has not been traced yet.

According to sources, the man had given the officials false information multiple times. Now, they have zeroed in on a number linked to him and are tracking the CDR records of the number to track him down.



They said that on average, every day two to three individuals give false identity and contact numbers making it tough to trace the contacts.

The DC said that it is the fear and anxiety over the pandemic that leads to such issues and added that the stigma around the disease should go.

Though at the 'receiving end', the DC said that the individual will not be charged as he wants people to give genuine info. "Our intention is to create awareness," he said.eate awareness," he said.

EXPRESS READ

Centenarian recovers from Covid-19

Tirupati: Winning a battle against Covid-19, a 101-year-old woman got discharged from a hospital in Tirupati on Saturday. P Mangamma tested positive for the virus recently and was being trated at a local Covid hospital. She stands as an example for others in winning the battle against COVID-19," said SVIMS Superintendent Dr R Ram.

Floods disrupt normal life in Kurnool

Kurnool: Heavy rains and floods claimed three lives and disrupted normalcy in several parts of Kurnool district in Andhra Pradeshsince Friday night. Minor rivers and streams are in spate and have washed away roads in several parts of the district. Officials released 39,868 cusecs of water into the Handri River and canals.

TN govt deposits ₹67.9 cr for Jaya's house

Chennai: Putting the debate to rest, the State government on Saturday deposited ₹67.9 crore at the principal sessions court to acquire Veda Nilayam, former chief minister J Jayalalithaa's residence at Poes Garden. Of the amount, ₹36.9 crore would go to the Income Tax department, to meet the pending penalties and arrears. The balance amount, ₹31 crore, would be shared between Deepa and Deepak -- who were declared as Jayalalithaa's legal heirs by a division bench of the Madras High Court in May this year.

Pension scheme for archaks on cards: Official

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A department official said until now, the temple staff, including priests, did not have health insurance or other benefits such as Employees State Insurance or Provident Fund. "If we introduce health or ESI cards, the families will get medical insurance cover. We will check with the Department of Finance and proceed. We have plans to introduce pensions for archaks and others. The discussions are in the initial stages," the official said.

Last year, archaks had protested in Bengaluru demanding insurance and increase of their daily wages to ₹249. Archaks in Class-C temples now get about ₹4,000 a month.

As floods played havoc in North Karnataka in 2019, the Army played a crucial role in rescuing people in Belagavi, Bagalkot, Raichur and Yadgir | EXPRESS

Floods add to Covid crisis in Karnataka

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

THE State, struggling to fight the pandemic, will soon have to face another challenge. With the Met department warning of heavy rains in August and September, the State government has to brace for floods in the coming weeks. But accommodating people hit by floods at the community centres will be a big challenge for the administration as the number of Covid cases in the State continue to surge.

On Saturday, Revenue Minister R Ashoka said that they have identified 1,980 villages in the State which are flood-prone. As many as 51.81 lakh people are expected to be affected. He said they have identified 1,747 relief centres, including schools and colleges, community centres located nearby to accommodate the villagers during the floods.

"A sum of 1,144 crore has been released to the concerned Deputy Commissioners for the flood management. A coordination committee will be constituted in the next one week. A nodal officer will be deputed to each village to be overall in charge," the minister said.

Official sources from the Revenue department said that last year too they had faced floods and accommodated people in large numbers at the relief centres for weeks together. "This year, the situation is not the same. We have Covid to consider. Accommodating large number of people in one place is scary. With continuous rain, people tend to fall sick. If anyone tested positive in any of these centres, the situation will turn worse," sources said.

Principal Secretary (Revenue) N Manjunatha Prasad said they have identified community halls and schools which will be sanitized regularly. "We shall also make provision for hand wash and masks. We will ensure some distance is maintained," he added. He said separate quarantine centres will also be set up, if such a situation arises.

Apart from providing them food, blankets and other materials, the State will have the additional inancial burden – providing masks, sanitiser and taking other measures.

Farmers to protest with 'Farmlands not for sale' boards

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

TO step up their campaign against the ordinance on Land Reforms Act, the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) announced that its members will put up "Farmlands not for sale" boards across all villages in the state from August 8.

KRRS president Badagalpura Nagendra tod the media in Mysuru on Saturday, "There is no difference between the Quit India Movement and this ordinance. Back then, it was the British against us and now it is the corporates and ruling class. With the ordinance, they want to take advantage of hapless farmers."

The farmers' forum also plans a statewide sensitisation campaign, asking farmers to be wary of purchases by non-farmers under the ordinance.

Nagendra said that his meeting with Opposition Leader in the Assembly Siddaramaiah does not amount to politicising the protest. "We have maintained a distance from all political parties. We welcome them to oppose the ordinance," he said.

He also opposed online classes for students, saying villages still lack proper cellphone, internet and even power connections and said the government has acted under pressure from private institutions.

THIS ELEPHANT TURNS TWIGS INTO EAR BUDS

Sunder, the 20-year-old tusker, was brought to BBBP in 2014 after he was rescued from a temple in Maharashtra

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

SUNDAR'S antics have left his keepers at Bengaluru Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBBP) both delighted and perplexed. The 20-year-old tusker has a strangely human habit – he picks up a twig and proceeds to use it much like an ear bud.

Having seen Sundar scratch his flapping ear with it, and look quite satisfied, a fellow cow elephant, Menaka, has picked up the habit too. However, she uses the twig to scratch her neck and underbelly.

Animal keepers, zoo authorities and biologists who stumbled upon this new characteristic in Sundar, were intrigued by this behaviour. "Usually, elephants use branches to dust themselves or use twigs to poke or scratch, but this characteristic is unusual among animals. Sundar uses small twigs, sometimes breaks bigger ones, fits them to size and uses them as ear buds," said Amla M Anil, education officer and animal behaviour analyst at BBBP.

Observing Sundar since 2014, the BBBP started monitoring him closely after he was moved out of his kraal four months ago. He was brought to BBBP in 2014 at the age of 15, after he was rescued from a temple in Kolhapur, Maharashtra.

"He was a very aggressive tusker initially, but has started to relax and follows the commands of his keeper. While animals use tools, I have not seen any other animal do this earlier. Our staffers are observing the animals to understand their behaviour. Recently, the effect of music on Rhesus Macaques showed that they enjoyed it and would wait to hear more," said BBBP Executive Director Vanashri Vipin Singh.

The zoo management guesses that Sundar's keeper might have scratched his ear with a twig, which he found soothing and is now trying it out himself. It could also be that Sundar did this accidentally once and now finds it comforting. The experts are also of the opinion that the tusker could have seen someone doing the same and is replicating it. The management is monitoring his behaviour even more closely and looking for psychologists to help analyse his act.

TNPL TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
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Phone No. 04324-277001 (10 lines), Extn. 4278/4206/4404/4402 Fax :04324-277027

NOTICE INVITING BIDS
For Procurement of Packages for Mill Expansion Plan at TNPL Unit-II

S. No.	Description	Bid Issue Date
1.	Erection of Plant & Machinery in Chemical Recovery Area	03.08.2020
2.	Supply of Steam Pipes & Fittings (IBR)	28.07.2020
3.	DNCG & CNCG Collection System in Recovery Island	06.08.2020
4.	Fabrication and Erection of Steel Chimney	
5.	Application of Thermal Insulation	
6.	Supply of Instrumentation Cables	27.07.2020

Mail - S. No : 1, 2 & 3 - pmd3@tnpl.co.in, S.No : 4 & 5 - pmd4@tnpl.co.in & S.No. 6 - pmd6@tnpl.co.in

Detailed terms & condition, tender fee, EMD etc., may be viewed in websites : www.tnpl.com/www.tenders.tn.gov.in

DIPR/2793/Tender/2020 TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
The following e-Auctions scheduled for disposal of Ferrous Scrap, Non-Ferrous Scrap, other Misc Scrap, condemned Wagon, Coaches & Locos, Scrap Rails and other Permanent Way Scrap material are stands cancelled.
CORRIGENDUM TO AUCTION PROGRAM
FOR AUGUST-2020 NOTICE NO.02/2020

Date	e-auction conducted by	Materials for auction
05.08.2020 & 19.08.2020	Sr.DMM/TVC	Stands cancelled due to administrative reasons
06.08.2020 & 20.08.2020	Sr.DMM/TVC (for PGT divn)	Stands cancelled due to administrative reasons

All other Auctions scheduled for August'20 remains unaltered.

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FOR PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIALS MANAGER
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DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004
Bid No. E-25/2020-2021 E-TENDERS Dated : 21.07.2020
E-Tenders are invited for & on behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only e-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have class III Digital Signature and registration on IREPS. The details of tenders are in the following sequence :- S. No. - Tender No. (Due Date), Description and Quantity as under. (1) 04205023 (11.08.2020), Bogie frame arrangement, 02 Nos. (2) 04201262 (21.08.2020), Fuel Tank assly, PL No.11530790, 13 Nos. (3) 04201063 (14.08.2020) Radiator compartment, PL No.11545641, 20 Nos. (4) 04201095 (19.08.2020) Long Hood Assly, PL No.11700154, 16 Nos. (5) 04201072 (17.08.2020) Brake Rigging Kit PL No.11520334, 32 Set. (6) 06201025A (19.08.2020) Fixing cable Part No.29100239, 254 Set. (7) 06201288 (11.08.2020) Dynamic braking Part No.18011378, 1 Set. (8) 06201184 (17.08.2020) Flex Conduct pipe Part No.12515012, 14 MTR (9) 06201209, (17.08.2020), MUSD Switch Part No.12319351, 24 Nos. (10) 03201314, (28.08.2020), Ball Valve, PL No.29162038, 1172 Nos. (11) 03201469, (04.09.2020), Set of Gasket, PL No.29250018, 298 Set. (12) 03201511, (18.09.2020), Copper Pipe fittings, PL No.29230081, 303 Set. (13) 01201313, (25.08.2020), SS Tube PL No.29120068, 12394.6 Meter (14) 01201221, (14.08.2020), Lube Oil cooler Assly PL No.10061307, 29 Nos. (15) 07205202 (19.08.2020) PL No. Non Stock, 33 HP submersible pump sets, 3 Sets. Note: For Complete details of EMD and downloading of tender documents and Hindi Version also available at website www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in and www.ireps.gov.in. Corrigendum Notice Date: 21.07.2020 S.No. 1 Tender No.: 05205193 Bid No.: E-14 Rev.: 01 Existing Due Date: 17.07.2020 Revised Due Date: 03.08.2020 All other terms & condition shall remain unchanged. Corrigendum Notice Date: 22.07.2020 S.No. 1 Bid No.: E-18 Tender No.: 03201440 Details of Corrigendum: 1. Tender (due to open on 29.07.2020) has been postponed and due to open on 31.07.2020 2. Tender quantity has been revised from 294 set to 536 set. Corrigendum Notice Date: 22.07.2020 S.No. 1 Bid No.: E-13 Tender No.: 04201212 Revision: 1 Details of Correction : The tender will open on 04.08.2020 instead of 23.07.2020 Note: All other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchange.
P.R.O/DLW/S-29 On the behalf of PCMM
/ diesellocoworks "Website :- www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in"

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise) (An ISO-9002 Company)
Bailadila Iron Ore Mine, Kirandul Complex, Kirandul-494556, Distt.-South Bastar Dantewada, Chhattisgarh
Gram : IRONORE, Fax : 07857-255226, 255227, 255225 CIN : L13100TG1958GOI001674
No. BIOM/KDL/MECH/OTE/2020 PRESS NOTIFICATION Dated: 25-07-2020
BIOM, Kirandul Complex, Kirandul, invites SEALED TENDERS in TWO BID SYSTEM for the following work(s), from reputed firms in similar field. The Tender Documents can be purchased from the Office of Dy. General Manager (Finance), NMDC Ltd., Kirandul Complex, Kirandul, on any working day during office hours (Wednesday is weekly rest day). Sale of Tender Documents will be available at Kirandul only. However tender documents can be downloaded from the Website mentioned below.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rs.)	Completion Period (in months)	Period of Sale of Tender Documents	Due-Date of Submission of Tender	Date & Time of Tender Opening	Cost of Tender Documents
1.	In-situ Rubber Lagging of Drive & Non-Drive Pulleys, BIOM Kirandul Complex.	Rs. 70,520/-	24 (Twenty Four) Months	01-08-2020 to 25-08-2020	28-08-2020 (15:00 Hours)	28-08-2020 (15:30 Hours)	Rs. 5900/- (Including GST)
2.	Steel Cord & Nylon Belt Joints for Conveyors at OCSL Plant, BIOM Kirandul Complex.	Rs. 89,850/-	24 (Twenty Four) Months	02-08-2020 to 26-08-2020	29-08-2020 (15:00 Hours)	29-08-2020 (15:30 Hours)	Rs. 5900/- (Including GST)
3.	Repair of Steel Cord Belt Using Recapping Sheet for Conveyors at OCSL Plant, BIOM Kirandul Complex.	Rs. 61,600/-	24 (Twenty Four) Months	03-08-2020 to 27-08-2020	30-08-2020 (15:00 Hours)	30-08-2020 (15:30 Hours)	Rs. 5900/- (Including GST)

For NOTICE INVITING TENDER, Pre qualifying conditions, other tender conditions and for Complete Address and Details, etc, intending Bidders are requested to visit on our Website www.nmdc.co.in. Corrigendum and Addenda if any will be posted on our NMDC website only. The prospective bidder should visit our NMDC website from time to time to note the Corrigendum and Addenda if any.
For and on behalf of NMDC Ltd.,
General Manager,
BIOM, Kirandul Complex.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE
Basav Gunj, BASAVAKALYAN-585 327, Dist. Bidar.
Office Ph: 08481-250356 Email: apmcbasavakalyan@gmail.co
No.AMD/APMC/BK/DEV/118/2020-21 Date: 22-07-2020
SHORT TERM TENDER (E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY
APMC. Basavakalyan hereby invites Tender for the following Development work from eligible e-portal registered PWD contractors in Two Tender Document system as per Karnataka Transparency Act 2000 through e-procurement portal. The contractors have to submit all tender related documents, itemized rates etc, by uploading through http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in websites in standard documents KW-4 (with latest amendments).
1) Pre bid/Clarification meeting : 20-08-2020 at 11.30 AM, 2) Last date for the submission of filled in E-Tender applications : 02-09-2020 up to 4.30 PM, 3) Date of opening of Technical bid : 07-09-2020 at 5.00 PM, 4) Date of opening of Financial bid (if Possible) : 11-09-2020 at 11.00 AM, 5) PREVAILING GST 12% WILL BE PAID ON THE TENDERED AMOUNT SEPARATELY.
1) Name of work : Development of Fruit and Vegetable Market of APMC Basavakalyan Under WIF Scheme 2020-21, 2) Amount put to Tender (in Lakhs) : 427.80, 3) EMD Amount (in Rupees) : 6,41,700/- 4) Time limit : 9 Month 5) Eligibility of the Contractors/ Firms : KW-4 Eligible Registered PWD Class-1 Civil Contactor, 6) Tender Fee : (KW-4) As per E-Portal.
Any other information required can be obtained from the office of the Secretary, Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Basava Gunj Bassavakalyan-585327 during working days and hours of through website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in
NOTE:-This Work has been approved in the Nabard WIF scheme for the year 2020-21. Therefore its bill will be paid after receiving the Nabard WIF Grant.
Sd/- Secretary A.P.M.C.Basavakalyan
Sd/- Administrator A.P.M.C.Basavakalyan
DIP/Bidar/81/MC&A/2020-21

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ [Web: www.vimsbellary.org.in] GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ವಿಜಯನಗರ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ
Reg.No:205/1995-96-Recognized by Medical Council of India, New Delhi vide No:MCI-57(3)/79-Med/1912, Dtd.16-04-1979,
Director: 08392-242387, PA : 08392-235201, Principal : 08392-235204, FAX : 08392-235202,
e-mail-ids: directorvimsbellary@gmail.com, vims_42366@yahoo.com, principalvimsbellary@gmail.com
ಸಂ.ವಿಮ್ಸ್/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ–1/ಹೊ.ಗು.ಸೇ/23 /2020–21 ದಿನಾಂಕ:23.07.2020
ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶದಂತೆ ವಿಮ್ಸ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಅಧೀನದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಿ.ಎಂ.ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ವೈ.–3 ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲಾಗಿರುವ ಸೂಪರ್ ಸ್ಪೆಷಾಲಿಟಿ ಟ್ರಾಮಾ ಕೇರ್ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಣೆಗಾಗಿ ಸೃಜನೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ 'ಸಿ' ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ನೇಮಕ ಮಾಡಲು ನೇರ ಸಂದರ್ಶನ ಏರ್ಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ವೇತನವನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಕಾಯ್ದೆನ್ವಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಮೆ. ಕಿಯೋನಿಕ್ಸ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಆದೇಶದಂತೆ 2020–21ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಡಿ.ಎಂ.ಎಫ್ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ನಿಧಿಯಿಂದ ಭರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ನೇಮಕಾತಿ II ಶಿಂಗಳ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಹುದ್ದೆಗೆ ತಕ್ಕಂತೆ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಹತೆ ಹೊಂದಿದ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳ 01 Set ಛಾಯಾ ಪ್ರತಿ & ಮೂಲ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ನೇರ ಸಂದರ್ಶನಕ್ಕೆ (Walk in-interview) ಹಾಜರಾಗುವುದು.
ನೇರ ಸಂದರ್ಶನ ದಿನಾಂಕ:29.07.2020, ಸಮಯ:ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ:11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಸಂದರ್ಶನದ (Walk in-interview)
ಸ್ಥಳ: ವಿಮ್ಸ್ ಆಡಳಿತ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಹತೆ	ವಯೋಮಿತಿ	ಮಾಸಿಕ ವೇತನ
1	ಶುಶ್ರೂಷಾಧಿಕಾರಿ	75	1) ಜಿ.ಎನ್.ಎಂ. ಶುಶ್ರೂಷ ತರಬೇತಿ ಹೊಂದಿರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು 2) ಬಿ.ಎಸ್ಸಿ ನರ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಹೊಂದಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಅದ್ಯತೆ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.	1) SC/ST or Cat.1 – 40 Years 2) Cat.-II(a) or II(b), III(a) or III (b) of other Back ward Classes-38 years and 3) General - 35 years ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಹತೆ ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅದ್ಯತೆ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಐ.ಸಿ.ಯು & ಕ್ರಿಟಿಕಲ್ ಕೇರ್ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿಹಾಗೂ 500 ಹಾಸಿಗೆಗಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಿದ ಅನುಭವ ಹೊಂದಿದ ಅಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ವಯೋಮಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಡಿಲಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಪತ್ರ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು.	ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ನ್ವಯ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ವೇತನ
2	ಸೂಪರ್ ವೈಜರ್ಸ್	01	ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯು ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಪದವಿಯನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.		
3	ರಿಸಪ್ಷನಿಷ್ಟ್	01	ಯಾವುದೇ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಪದವಿ, ಗಣಕಯಂತ್ರ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ತರಬೇತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಇಂಗ್ಲೀಷ್ & ಕನ್ನಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರಾಗವಾಗಿ ಮಾತನಾಡುವಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯಹೊಂದಿರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.		
4	ಫಾರ್ಮಸಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ	02	'ಡಿ' ಫಾರ್ಮಾ ಪದವಿ ಹೊಂದಿರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು 'ಬಿ' ಫಾರ್ಮಾ ಪದವಿ ಹೊಂದಿದವರಿಗೆ ಅದ್ಯತೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು.		
5	ರೇಡಿಯೋಗ್ರಾಪರ್	02	ಕ್ಷ–ಕಿರಣ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞರ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಡಿಪ್ಲೋಮ ಹೊಂದಿರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.		
6	ಇ.ಸಿ.ಜಿ/ಇ.ಸಿ.ಓ ಟೆಕ್ನೋಲಾಜಿಸ್ಟ್	01	ಇ.ಸಿ.ಜಿ/ಇ.ಸಿ.ಓ ಡಿಪ್ಲೋಮ ಹೊಂದಿರ ತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.		
7	ಇ.ಇ.ಜಿ ಟೆಕ್ನೋಲಾಜಿಸ್ಟ್	01	ಇ.ಇ.ಜಿ ಡಿಪ್ಲೋಮ ಹೊಂದಿರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.		
8	ಪರ್‌ಫ್ಯೂಷನಿಸ್ಟ್ ಫಾರ್ ಸಿ.ಟಿ ಸರ್ಜರಿ	01	ಪರ್‌ಫ್ಯೂಷನಿಸ್ಟ್ ಫಾರ್ ಸಿ.ಟಿ ಸರ್ಜರಿ ಡಿಪ್ಲೋಮ ಹೊಂದಿರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.		
9	ಲ್ಯಾಬ್ ಟೆಕ್ನೋಲಾಜಿಸ್ಟ್ ಫಾರ್ ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಲ್ಯಾಬ್	03	ಪ್ರಯೋಗಶಾಲಾ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞ ಡಿಪ್ಲೋಮ ತರಬೇತಿ ಹೊಂದಿರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.		

ನೇರ ಸಂದರ್ಶನಕ್ಕೆ (Walk in-interview) ಹಾಜರಾಗುವ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ರೂ.500/– ಶುಲ್ಕವನ್ನು ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ವಿಮ್ಸ್, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಇವರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಡಿ.ಡಿ.ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆದು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ವಿಮ್ಸ್ ಅಂತರ್ ಜಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ www.vimsbellary.org.in ಡೌನ್ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಯು ನೇರ ಸಂದರ್ಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾಜರಾಗುವುದು.
ಸಹಿ/–
ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ವಿಮ್ಸ್, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ/53/2020–21

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All the truth in the world adds up to one big lie

Bob Dylan

GREEN SHOOTS OF THEORIES AMIDST REALITIES

THERE "really is no such thing as 'the future', singular" says Niall Ferguson in his book *'The Ascent of Money'*. That neither detains nor deter theorists. The discourse on India's economy is sprouting green shoots of theories on the future of the economy amidst present realities. To paraphrase Ferguson, the hypotheses of multiple, unforeseeable futures, are armed with the capacity to surprise.

This Tuesday, the Finance Minister told the audience at a virtual conference that as per high frequency indicators, 'green shoots' of recovery are visible and that the government was watching and acting. On Thursday, the economic affairs secretary speaking at a FICCI conference cited better advance tax collections to aver that 'contraction in the economy may not be as much as some are expecting' and claimed the country could see a 'V-shaped recovery' in 2021.

Interpretations of data can only be validated by historians. After all, the observed is but one splice of what is observable. For those here and now, what is significant is that the observations arrive without the expected feel good factor. The optimistic prognosis has raised eyebrows — particularly in the context of the surge in number of COVID-19 cases and repeated lockdowns across states. More critically, interpretation of data militates against interpretations of others.

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR

Author of Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution, and Accidental India

shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com

Reports released over the past few weeks, including those by banks and agencies, present a contrasting picture. On July 16, rating agency ICRA revised its forecast and estimated that the economy will contract by as much as 9.5 per cent, deeper than its earlier assessment of 5 per cent. The literature of the shape of recovery has drawn from vivid imagination and is a choice from a soup of alphabets V, W, U, L and even shapes of logos of Nike and Li Ning. ICRA estimates "The timeline for a firmer recovery out of the contractionary phase is now being pushed ahead to at least Q4 FY2021 from Q3 FY2021."

An important data point to measure economic activity is credit — bank credit to commercial sector between April and July is negative at -0.8 per cent compared to same period in 2019-20 and 6.2 per cent year-on-year compared to 11.5 per cent in 2019. On the flip side, banks continue to park their monies in government securities.

Another data point is the fate of loans. This week in its report on Financial Stability, the RBI states under baseline scenario, gross NPAs could rise from 8.5 per cent to 12.5 per cent, the highest in 20 years. Indeed, barring four every parameter on the systemic risk survey is pointing north. There is no mistaking the economy is overwhelmed by the consequences of the pandemic. SBI, in its EcoWrap in the first week of July, observed "we feel no sector is untouched by impact of Covid19" and pointed out that "The pandemic has resulted in unprecedented rating downgrades across sectors. We had 182 upgrades and 2996 downgrades just in the first quarter of FY21."

There are high-frequency indicators and then there are high-frequency indicators. As per SIAM data, auto sales dropped 51 per cent in June 2020 and TRAI data reveals 8.2 million mobile subscribers exited networks in April. While PMI or the index of purchasing managers has improved following the lifting of lockdown, fact is both manufacturing and services are operating at sub-par levels. Factory activity contracted for a third straight month and services sector activity contracted fourth successive month in June.

What is problematic is not the optimistic forecast but the sanguine approach, the misplaced notion that recovery will come without a meaningful stimulus package. Yes, the government has promised action and it did initiate measures but much of it was focussed on the supply side with RBI doing the heavy lifting – and here again it is yet to craft a plan for the post loan moratorium phase. The fiscal stimulus required to address the decimation of demand is as yet missing.

World over governments are rewriting the general theory of employment, interest and money first conceptualised by John Maynard Keynes. The US and other large economies have written cheques of over $ 4 trillion dollars. Earlier this week, 27 countries in the European Union came together to put together a package of $858-plus billion of which over $400 billion would be issued as grants to member states. Elected representatives in the US are working on a new trillion dollar plan.

Governments choose the policy to suit the context — Keynesianism during recession, Friedman-style monetarism or Austrian-ism to mend ways or plain old bailout as seen in 2008. India's approach in the face of a severe contraction is curious — the optics of Keynesianism with monetarist characteristics. The inescapable reality is that the longer an economy punches below potential, the deeper it will drag down its potential growth rate. In an era when human interface is being rapidly retrenched, the unemployed can quickly become unemployable. Like companies, countries operating below capacity are doomed to dire straits where deficits and debt will overwhelm the economy. Growth is critical — more so for India with 90 crore of its 135 crore in the 15-64 age cohort. The question, therefore, is not whether India can afford to spend but can India afford not to spend.

WHY VARAVARA RAO MATTERS

POINT OF VIEW

T J S GEORGE

THERE was neither common sense nor political sense in putting Telugu poet and activist Varavara Rao in jail two years ago without trial and bail. He did support Naxalite excesses, but jailing a writer for that is equivalent to giving his writing more mileage.

As it happened, authorities excelled themselves in foolishness. In jail, Rao was hit by COVID-19. He was found lying "on a soiled bed soaked in urine with no one to attend to him," turning delirious often. The National Human Rights Commission had to interfere to get him moved to a hospital.

JNU's Sharjeel Imam was in a similar plight at the other end of the country, Guwahati. Out of 1,100 inmates in the central jail there, 600, including him, caught the disease. Small wonder because, as Sharjeel's relatives reported, "hundreds of positive patients are being forced to live in inhumane conditions inside the jail."

What does the Indian state gain by being inhumane? It must have known that such tactics would not break a man like Rao. He had spent 10 years in various prisons under the orders of various governments.

The law saw him as an offender when violence rocked the Bhima Koregaon village near Pune in 2017-18. Dalits and their Leftist supporters had held the Elgar Parishad, a commemoration event to mark the 200th anniversary of a battle. When violence followed, the Pune police took the BJP-sponsored position that the Parishad was arranged by communist forces to "spread rebellious thoughts". The ridiculousness of this line stood exposed when two retired judges came forward and said they were "the main organisers and sole funders" of the Parishad. One of them said their aim was to defend the Constitution by fighting Hindutva forces.

The BJP looked foolish. It overplayed its hands when it produced a letter said to have been found in the house of an arrested 'Maoist' with details of a plot to assassinate the prime minister, mentioning even the names of the conspirators. Are our Maoists so amateurish? No secret organisation worth its name would put operational details in a callously kept letter. Yet, the BJP propagandists thought that the world would take its word as gospel.

The police lost more face when its arrest list included Sudha Bharadwaj, widely admired not only for her political daring but also for her decision to give up her American citizenship (she was born there), the opposite of what ambitious Indians dream about. As an Indian, she was of course at the mercy of the police who did not even pretend to frame charges against the arrested persons. Bail was rejected repeatedly.

Varavara Rao was a proclaimed Marxist and some of his ideological convictions were of the extremist kind. His defence of Maoist excesses was not acceptable to many. But his was an intellectual approach to politics, and it was important that it was countered by intellectual arguments. Police approach not only did not solve the problem; it left the intellectual foundations of the problem unchallenged.

> Varavara Rao was a proclaimed Marxist and some of his ideological convictions were of the extremist kind. His defence of Maoist excesses was not acceptable to many. But his was an intellectual approach to politics, and it was important that it was countered by intellectual arguments

In all, 25 cases, including murder and use of explosives, were filed against Varavara Rao. Prosecution failed to prove a single charge and the man was acquitted in all cases as "not guilty". The first imprisonment in 1973 under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act was invalidated by the Andhra Pradesh High Court on the ground that writers could not be imprisoned unless their writings were directly linked to crime. In this case, the jail term was directly linked to creativity. Rao wrote a bunch of poems that appeared in a 1974 collection titled "In Jail." The poet in him was not in jail at all as he wrote: "This is jail for the voice and the feet/ But the hand hasn't stopped writing/ The heart hasn't stopped throbbing."

Almost half of Varavara Rao's body of work was done in jail. He never departed from his independent, anti-establishment standpoint as he wrote poetry, translations, essays plus a whole book on literary criticism. He remained defiant all the time, referring to "the murder of literary creations" in the course of "watches, searches and raids". A collective of writers protested against his being treated cruelly.

Of course, they knew the reasons for the treatment meted out to him. The whole world knew the reasons. And the reasons were old, familiar ones. They stemmed from authorities with a guilty conscience trying to cover their sense of guilt with more guilt. That is all that authorities know. That is all they want to know. That is how small they are.

CONG GENNEXT WANTS TO BE PILOT SANS PLAN

POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA

prabhuchawla@newindianexpress.com

Follow him on Twitter @PrabhuChawla

AGE is not a substitute for experience. Youth has no experience to be a substitute either if the Rajasthan standoff is a case in point. The rebellion piloted by Sachin Pilot ignoring the high command of 10 Janpath and fraternal outreach of Gen Gandhi 4.0 is a sign of disgust for golden oldie Ashok Gehlot who's taking his time over succession. Ambition is the elixir of opportunity.

The 42-year-old Pilot has had enough of being 69-old-Gehlot's copilot without a flight plan. The Congress runway is blocked by ageing aircraft, which are frustrating the desire of youth impatient to take over the cockpit by any means. Previously, Congress's party's blue-blood boy Jyotiraditya Scindia, 49, deserted because he felt he wasn't given what he thought was deserved. He was so incensed by being made to wait in line by Kamal Nath that he brought down the state government and wooed an obliging BJP which rewarded him with a seat in the House of Elders. His contemporary and comrade Sachin Pilot, who led his own state unit for six years, is credited with bringing the party to power in Rajasthan. He expected to be the Chief Minister but ended one rung lower as deputy CM, albeit the youngest of the state. In the UPA administrations, they became Union Ministers in their late 30s and early 40s. They were given organisational responsibilities. Cooling their heels have now heated up their tempers.

Pilot and Scindia symbolise the clash between generations in the 130-year-old Grand Old Party over capturing power and staying in power. Sharad Pawar was the first Young Turk to topple the Congress government in Maharashtra and become its youngest chief minister at the age of 38. Meanwhile, the credit for saffron stability goes to the RSS and Prime Minister Narendra Modi who have created opportunities for youth in the organisation, the party and governments at both the Centre and states. More than half its CMs are under or around 50. The average age of the Union Cabinet is 60—perhaps the youngest since Independence. The BJP has made it mandatory not to offer a political post to anyone aged above 75. Leaders crossing 70 are being sidelined and replaced with comparatively younger ones.

The BJP is the only national party, which is grooming its Gen Next. However, its detractors claim that Modi and Shah are purging senior leaders who built the organisation from the ground, to stave off future threats to their leadership. They also feel the party could suffer in the long run if experienced leaders are jettisoned for whippersnappers who won't provide unpleasant feedback to the captain and the co-pilot for fear of the messenger getting shot.

Regional parties, which calculate their leadership logarithm by caste, region and religion, groom young leaders well in advance. Since most of them are family run outfits, the transition from the old to the new is mostly smooth. This changeover first began with Haryana's iconic Devi Lal who imposed his sons on his Lok Dal party and made one of them the chief minister at a young age. Now his great grandson Dushyant Chautala is the deputy chief minister. In Jammu and Kashmir, the National Conference won the Assembly elections under the leadership of Farooq Abdullah who anointed his then 38-year-old Rochford born son Omar Abdullah as the CM over more experienced leaders. In Uttar Pradesh, Samajawadi Party supremo Mulayam Singh Yadav opted for Australia educated son Akhilesh Yadav as the youngest chief minister of India's largest state. BSP chief Kanshi Ram chose then 39 year-old Mayawati to lead the party and the government.

> The truth is that Independent India may be 73-year-old, but she can't be left at the mercy of chic gentlemen who live in the past and are clueless about modern and prosperous preferences. Many young leaders are educated abroad and look healthier, smarter than their bosses. But many have turned out to be pipsqueaks

It's only the Congress, which has failed to put in place a feasible and effective mechanism for power transfer. During Indira Gandhi's rule, the regional satraps were toppled and replaced with elderly loyalists. Frustrated and deserving leaders like Devaraj Urs, RK Hegde, Pranab Mukherjee, Madhavrao Scindia , Mamata Banerjee et al left to float their own parties.

With over 70 percent of India's population below 45, youngsters aren't willing to settle for less. At the moment, the mood in the Congress is rebellious. Those under-50 leaders feel why all the Congress chief ministers have to be seniors. They expect their seniors to vacate seats since they believe they're the ones who can feel the pulse of the people. They alone can understand the means and ways to deliver better leadership and effective governance. Because of superior education and demeanor, they're in a better position to connect with the new generation.

The truth is that Independent India may be 73-year-old, but she can't be left at the mercy of chic gentlemen who live in the past and are clueless about modern and prosperous preferences. Many young leaders are educated abroad and look healthier and smarter than their bosses. But many have turned out to be pipsqueaks. Omar lost in J&K. Akhilesh failed to return to power despite his credible performance. Both feel the heat of their seniors now. Tejashwi Yadav, Lalu Yadav's younger son who holds the record of becoming Bihar's deputy chief minister at just 26, couldn't retain power. The party lost many of its senior leaders as well.

Rahul Gandhi is equally responsible for his inability to hold his flock together. Ironically, those who are deserting the Congress belong to a similar lineage and elitist upbringing. Rahul's advantage is that he's a Gandhi. Under him, the party lost the Lok Sabha elections twice and in a majority of the states. Publicly, he's not inclined to grab the top post again though he remains the party's face. The Congress is yet to learn the art of surviving without a Gandhi.

The problem with the challengers is their massive ego. As Gehlot put it: "Speaking good English, giving good sound bytes and being handsome is not everything. Commitment to ideology is necessary." Since Congress GenNext have come up in a modern socio-political environment and haven't participated in the ideological learning process, party-hopping is the natural progression. They were catapulted to the high echelons because of degree and pedigree. India's 21st century politics is not a standoff between ideologies but between individuals.

With age on their side, over-ambitious leaders are redefining the rules of the power game. Age positive may be a temporary advantage which could turn power negative in the long run. Meanwhile, the Congress departing lounge is filling up with restless young passengers who don't want a boarding pass, but the joystick itself.

QUOTE CORNER

These are the people that have worked for you. These are the people who have served you all their careers. You send them out to live in the rain. Is that your definition of ethics when you treat your labour force that way?

Ratan Tata, Chairman of Tata Trusts

We will be treating every opinion voiced on the international stage with respect. But the way Hagia Sophia will be used falls under Turkey's sovereign rights. We deem every move that goes beyond voicing an opinion a violation of our sovereignty

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkish President

Now after exactly seven years, this story for me has finished. But of course my story is only a part of this whole story. It was a huge thing, because that made me feel stronger now and feel stable, feel that now I can be part of this society

Behrouz Boochani, Kurdish-Iranian journalist

MAILBAG WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Invest in our youth

This has reference to How not to waste the demographic dividend of India. (July 25) The article should be an eyeopener to educationalists, planners, thinkers, reformers and government. Though India, at present is blessed with the demographic dividend of a young population capable of earning, if it is not utilised, it will be a liability. The deterioration of quality of engineering and management graduates incapacitates them being hired. Budgetary allocation for education should be considerably increased not only to improve the quality of higher education but also to train more people for employment.

Dharmarajan AK, Thalassery

Impose President's Rule

The power struggle going on between the Rajasthan CM and his Deputy both in the Assembly and now in the courts have left the Rajasthanis as orphans with none coming to their help during the Corona pandemic. The government machinery is also stated to be in slumber with none to guide in policy matters. In simple words, the voters are made to suffer while the leaders fight for selfish ends. This is really a betrayal of the faith placed in them by the people to govern with respect and responsibility. Even if one party wins in this case, the State is not going to function efficiently mainly in the law and order front. The cart of the State cannot run for long with one wheel damaged. The best course now open to the Governor is to recommend President's Rule until fresh elections can be conducted after the State is freed from the clutches of Covid infection.

V Rakesh Kaushik, Coimbatore

Snowballing NPAs of banks

Th Reserve Bank of India's caution that NPAs of our banks may swell at least to 12.5% in March 2021 due to COVID-19 is indeed horrific for overt reasons. The overall economic jolt to the country because of the pandemic is huge and hence more intransigent and prudent policies are crucial to restore our monetary scenario. An intact revamp of the banking sector is considered key to improve the situation in the country.

Thomas K M, Muvattupuzha

Injustice to contract worker

It's unfortunate that the contract worker, who had pasted the Covid-19 home quarantine sticker at the residence of actor Kamal Haasan, was sacked by the Chennai Corporation. In fact, he had acted strictly in accordance with the instructions received from his superiors. Obviously, the worker had no personal grudge against the actor. The punishment given to him, therefore, is absolutely illogical and irrational. It's good that the State Human Rights Commission has intervened to render justice to the man. Strictly speaking, the Assistant Health Officer, Sanitary Inspector and Sanitary Officer, who had issued orders without verifying facts, deserve a rap on the knuckles for the goof-up and making the contract worker a scapegoat.

PG Menon, Chennai

Complete lockdown must

The COVID-19 situation in Kerala is worsening as more than 65% of the positive cases are due to local transmission and unknown sources. Containment zones and cluster groups are increasing daily. The CM has not ruled out a complete lockdown permanently. In such a situation, there should be no concession except for very essential services.

Ravi Sankar KA, Kochi

Industrial safety must

Your editorial on industrial safety especially with reverence to the recent events in Vishakapatnam, is well written and relevant suggestions have been given along with what went wrong. Most importantly as you have been mentioned, there are Factories Act, Explosives Act, Pollution Control Board etc but unfortunately those who have to oversee / supervise these cts are incompetent and callous. Stringent action should be taken against these authorities to instill confidence in the common man. But unfortunately that does not happen

Vijay Kumar C, Bengaluru

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra @priyankagandhi
The Uttar Pradesh government should not be stubborn and adopt a transparent and public-oriented policy on Covid-19

Sitaram Yechury @SitaramYechury
We have a central government which prioritises toppling state governments over helping the poor Indians out in Assam or elsewhere.

Dr Harsh Vardhan @drharshvardhan
Do not conduct any public event in view of transition of #COVID19 and follow #PhysicalDistancing to the fullest

Covid strikes first CM, Shivraj tests positive

Chouhan admitted to hospital in Bhopal, Kamal Nath wishes speedy recovery

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bhopal

MADHYA Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has become the first CM of any state to have tested Covid-19 positive. Chouhan tested positive on Saturday, two days after one of his cabinet ministers Arvind Singh Bhadoriya was also infected and hospitalised in Bhopal.

The 61-year-old Chouhan tweeted on Saturday afternoon: "I have tested corona positive and appeal to all those who came in contact with me to get selves tested. All those close to me should also quarantine themselves. Had some Covid-19 like symptoms, so got myself tested." He was admitted to the Chirayu hospital where Bhadoriya is also hospitalized.

"I'm full healthy," tweeted Chouhan, adding: "I'll try to continue reviewing the Covid-19 situation via video conferencing. In my absence, however, the home minister Narottam Mishra and health minister Prabhuram Chuadhary, urban development minister Bhupendra Singh and medical education minister Vishwas Sarang will hold the meetings."

"I tried to be very cautious and followed safety guidelines, but people kept meeting me with their problems," said Chouhan.

Former CM and Congress president Kamal Nath tweeted: "I pray for your early recovery. You (Shivraj) once made light of corona by dubbing it as drama and a weapon to save the government. We always said that Covid-19 is a serious ailment and proper safeguards and observance of necessary protocols are needed for shielding against it. Had you followed all safeguards and protocols and not taken the viral infection as a joke, you wouldn't have got infected."

I have tested corona positive and appeal to all those who came in contact with me to get selves tested. All those close to me should also quarantine themselves

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Madhya Pradesh CM

Bhadoriya was among the 30-odd ministers who had attended the cabinet meeting on Wednesday and had also accompanied the CM, state BJP chief V D Sharma and general secretary (organisation) Suhas Bhagat to Lucknow to attend Governor Lalji Tandon's last rites on Tuesday. Both Sharma and Bhagat have tested negative.

'Think less, think right for a powerful mind'

EXPRESS expressions — FEAR NONE, FAVOUR NONE

THESE are testing times. While the Covid-19 pandemic is claiming lives on one hand, it's also affecting the mental health of people around the globe. In order to deal with the dual challenge, we need to build up our emotional resilience, says ***Sister Shivani****, a teacher in the Brahma Kumaris spiritual movement in India, in conversation with* ***Prabhu Chawla, Editorial Director, The New Indian Express****, and author and senior journalist* ***Kaveree Bamzai*** *in TNIE Expressions, a series of live webcasts with people who matter.*

On how to build the emotional resilience, Sister Shivani said we can get there by consuming less information. "Two-three decades ago, there was lesser content consumption. What we consume has a direct impact on our minds. Our emotional diet is what we watch, read and listen to. Earlier we used to consume content from parents, teachers, newspapers, good books — less content, good quality, protected era as far as content consumption is concerned. Now with 24x7 television, social media, digital platforms, even children are consuming content at every click and nobody is checking. Even during the lockdown, had we consumed less information, it would have been better," she added.

Thinking less is the key, she says. "To make our minds more powerful, we need to think less and think right. Even before Covid-19, we have been living a life of emotional dependence. When the global crisis came, as a society, the message we were giving was that these times are normal, that fear and anxiety is normal. But it is not... With one crisis we cannot handle another."

There has been a significant rise in anxiety but people don't want to go to the therapist in the fear of stepping out of the house due to the pandemic. Sister Shivani says we need to slow down our thoughts and take one day at a time. "The outer crisis will be managed; we need to take care of our minds first."

Staying on top of our game is all we want but lately it has not been possible. But how do we energies ourselves every single day? "We should not use phones after waking up. Work communication should not be the first thing in the morning. The first hour is the time to energise the mind. One could practise meditation, yoga, read spiritual books. Content consumption of high vibration is good in the mornings; it is termed as a good emotional diet... The last hour is equally important... We should try to sleep by 10 pm and disconnect from work, slow down the mind, two hours before sleeping," she suggested.

"Sleep deprivation is a major issue in the world right now. So, whatever we do before lying down, it should have a soothing effect. During the day too, we can use our minds efficiently. What we call it here is the traffic control of the mind," added Sister. Last but not the least is gratitude and the important part it plays in our lives. "To show gratitude towards what we have every day helps keep our minds healthy and energised."

COVID-19 TREATMENT

Itolizumab fails to get task force's nod as corona drug

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @New Delhi

THE National Task Force on Covid-19 has decided not to recommend the drug 'Itolizumab' in the national protocol for treating the infection for now despite the drug regulator's decision to authorise its emergency use recently. In its meeting on Friday, most members felt that the evidence cited in favour of the medicine is "inconclusive".

The task force headed by Niti Aayog member (Health) Dr V K Paul is the apex body to advise the government on policies and technical aspects related to the management of the outbreak.

The EUA granted by the Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation to this drug for moderate to severe Covid-19 cases earlier this month had sparked a controversy as the approval was based on a very small Phase-II trial with just 30 patients. It has also emerged that the drug regulator had waived the manufacturer from doing a Phase-III trial and allowed it to move to Phase-IV directly. The CDSCO, however, had said that it had issued the permission after findings of the trial were found "satisfactory". The drug, developed by Biocon, was approved in 2013 and launched under the brand name Alzumab.

Herd immunity may arrive before coronavirus vaccine, says expert

A recent seroprevalence study in Delhi, showing that nearly one-fourth of the population may have antibodies against Covid-19, triggered a debate on how close the city could be to herd immunity. However, recent research in UK has shown that antibodies may not be long-lasting. **Dr Dipyaman Ganguly**, Principal Scientist at CSIR- Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata, deciphers what these studies mean in an interview with **Sumi Sukanya Dutta**

So far, what can be said definitively about immunological response towards Covid-19?

There are three major immunological insights - one, infected people do mount a robust immune response, rather at times, it's too aggravated which is driving the disease to untoward ends. Two, all infected individuals are mounting both antibodies and T cell-mediated immunity. Thirdly, it seems the antibodies —the ones we can detect — are rather short-lived, around 2-3 months. However, as no confirmed reinfection has been reported in 7-8 months, scientists believe either the T-cells or undetectable antibodies are protecting that long.

A recent study from the UK suggested that antibodies may not be last long and this led to a lot of speculation about long term immunity. Can you please elaborate on what this means?

It means the detectable antibodies are not long-lasting. But, the absence of antibodies does not mean the absence of protection. Protection against a pathogen can be mediated by antibodies or T cells or both. The presence of antibodies is an easily detectable parameter to confirm recent infection and thus important for sero-surveillance. T cell-mediated immunity against SARS-CoV2 needs to be kept in mind while assessing vaccine candidates.

A seroprevalence study in Delhi showed that around 23.5% of the samples tested had antibodies against the virus. What does it mean in the context of the immunological response to disease?

The most striking revelation is the sheer speed of the spread of the infection. It also marks the magnitude of asymptomatic infections. But, these data based on representative samples and may not provide exact picture.

What are your views on herd immunity against SARS-CoV-2? At what level of exposure can the population be naturally protected?

In my understanding, the race between vaccination and herd immunity will be won by the latter. I say this because- the virus is extremely contagious, infected individuals are infective for a long time and many have no clue about their infection in the absence of symptoms. However, herd immunity will only be achieved if the immune protection is long-lasting. We do not have that data right now. Time is the only experimental device that can give you this answer.

Is there anything about the virus and immunological response that has shocked or surprised you?

The major revelation was rather less robust immunity in asymptomatic individuals. The viral load was found not to be much different from the symptomatic ones. The disease seems not to be a direct function of the infectious agent. It is rather a function of how the immune system of a given individual is responding. Aggravated immune activities are damaging body's constituents and may result in disastrous results in some individuals. *(Read the full interview at www.newindianexpress.com)*

An aerial view of a flood-hit area in Assam on Saturday. Floods and landslides, triggered by weeks of heavy rain, have affected more than 26 lakh people in the state | PTI

AS ASSAM REELS UNDER FLOODS, DATA SHOWS HAVOC INCREASING ANNUALLY

KUMAR VIKRAM @New Delhi

OVER 100 persons have died in the floods in Assam so far while another 147 were killed in lightning strikes in Bihar last month. But with the monsoon season less than half way through, more loss of lives and property are expected if the trend in the past five years is anything to go by.

Take for instance human lives lost. In 2015, a little less than 1,000 persons died of flood and rain-related incidents, but in 2019, nearly 2,500 persons had lost their lives, according to government data. The loss of cattle also increased. While in 2015, less than 30,000 cattle died, in 2019, it was nearly 72,000.

To sum up the flood and its impact in the past five years, over 8,700 people were killed, over 2 lakh cattle died and more than 36 lakh houses were destroyed in floods.

The cost of damage to property has also shot up in these five years. While in 2015, the damage suffered totaled ₹33,257 cr, in 2018, the last year for which data is available, it went up to ₹95,736 cr. The cost of damage is likely to be more in 2019 as over a dozen states, including Bihar, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Maharashtra, witnessed large-scale devastation.

Besides the rising damages, the cost to the exchequer towards relief work has also increased. In 2016-17, the Centre released ₹11,441 cr under the National Disaster Relief Fund while its share under the State Disaster Relief Fund was ₹8,375 cr. This increased to ₹14,108 cr and ₹10,429 cr respectively in 2019-20.

The flood's increasing loss of lives and property appears to make a mockery of all the expert committees, task forces and commissions the government has formed.

In 1972, the Ganga Flood Control Commission was set up in Patna to address the flood problem and erosion in the Ganga basin states. In 1980, the Brahmaputra Board came into existence to address the flood erosion problem in the northeastern states and Sikkim.

The government also launched a Flood Management Programme in the Eleventh Plan (2007-12) for providing financial assistance to state governments to undertake work related to river management, flood control, anti-erosion, drainage development, flood proofing, among others.

The FMP was continued for three years under the Twelfth Plan from 2017-18 to 2019-20. It has subsequently been included as a component of the Flood Management and Border Areas Programme in the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

But all these appear to have come to a naught as the government's approach is more reactive than proactive, according to experts. Instead of focusing on the real problem, it was only concerned about relief measures, they said.

They pointed out that the area affected by floods has doubled since 1950.

"The flood-affected area in 1950 was 25 million hectare, now it has doubled to nearly 50 million hectare. But, what is surprising is that nobody looks concerned about the real issues," said Dinesh Kumar Mishra, a former IIT professor. "Earlier, only villages used to be affected but now cities are also getting flooded. Chennai and Patna are just examples. I had written to the government in 2015, highlighting the poor drainage system in cities."

Himanshu Thakkar, the coordinator of the South Asia Network of Dams, Rivers and People, said effective management of dams could bring down the damage caused by floods. "We have over 5,000 dams. Every dam can help moderate floods in the downstream area but only if it is operated properly."

Thakkar raised questions on embankments, saying hardly any cost benefit analysis has been done on this. "We are just mechanically going forward. We are encroaching upon flood plains and river beds and we are doing sand mining. All these add to the floods," he said.

The flood-affected area in 1950 was 25 million hectare, now it has doubled to nearly 50 million hectare. But, what is surprising is that nobody looks concerned about the real issues

Dinesh Kumar Mishra, a former IIT professor

Gehlot accuses governor of delaying session

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

LATER, the Rajasthan cabinet met at Gehlot's residence where a fresh proposal for an assembly session was drafted. The reworked proposal was sent to Raj Bhavan, which said the focus of the session would be the coronavirus pandemic and the economic crisis.

Gehlot was expected to meet the Governor late in the evening. The CM has accused the Governor of delaying the session because he was "under pressure" to stall a test of strength.

Congress workers protested in different districts to press for an assembly session. The party hit the streets and activists handed over memorandums to district collectors to be sent to the Governor.

The BJP, on its part, said the state was heading for a "constitutional crisis." A 12-member delegation met Mishra and accused the CM of theatrics and preventing the Governor from carrying out his constitutional duties.

"There is a procedure to be followed for calling an assembly session but Raj Bhavan was made a theatre for a sit-in protest. Is that proper? They are violating the Epidemic Act," said party chief Satish Poonia.

'Fever as Covid symptom could be misleading'

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @New Delhi

OVEREMPHASIS on fever as a predominant symptom of coronavirus could lead to several cases being missed, a study of Covid-19 patients admitted in two centres of the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences has revealed.

The study based on the clinical profile of 144 patients admitted at the AIIMS trauma centre in Delhi and its Jhajjar centre in March-April, published in ICMR's Indian Journal of Medical Research, noted that fever was present in only 17% of these patients.It was far less compared to other reports across the globe, including the Chinese cohort in whom 44% had fever at the time of presentation and 88% developed fever during the hospital stay, the paper said. "Thus, overemphasis on fever as a predominant symptom may lead to several cases being missed," the study titled '*Clinico-demographic profile & hospital outcomes of Covid-19 patients admitted at a tertiary care centre in north India*' noted.

The government in the beginning used to publicise clinical signs like fever, cough, fatigue and breathlessness as symptoms of the infectious disease. It was only in June that the Union health ministry recognized loss of smell and taste, diarrhea and muscle pain as signs of Covid-19.

But the study said more than 44% of the hospitalised patients were asymptomatic at the time of admission and remained so throughout. "This may be a cause of concern as these asymptomatic patients are potential carriers or transmitters of infection in the community."

Also, most symptomatic patients had mild respiratory symptoms such as nasal symptoms, throat irritation and cough, which was different from the reported symptoms in other studies. "...the characteristic findings included younger age, high proportion of asymptomatic patients, long time to PCR negativity and low need for intensive care unit care," noted the authors.

While a majority of the patients were treated with supportive care and required only symptomatic treatment such as antihistamines (48.6%), Vitamin C (47.2%), paracetamol (20.8%) and antibiotic azithromycin (20.1%), HCQ was administered to 27 (18.7%) patients and both HCQ and azithromycin were given to 11 (7.6%) patients.

UP ENCOUNTER
An alleged criminal who had 27 cases registered against him was killed in an encounter with police and the special task force (STF) in Uttar Pradesh's Barabanki district.

557 NEW CORONAVIRUS CASES IN RAJASTHAN

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	36	24	Mumbai	28	25
Bhopal	34	24	Panaji	28	24
Jaipur	40	26	Patna	33	28
Amritsar	34	27	Lucknow	33	28
Chennai	32	24	Port Blair	29	25
Kolkata	33	27	Imphal	30	22
Srinagar	28	20	Chandigarh	36	23

BJP's twin strategy for turncoats

Turncoats with clean image to get upper hand in tickets allocation for Bengal elections

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

USING allegation of corruption against the Trinamool Congress to combat it in 2021 Assembly elections, the BJP national leadership has decided to adopt a twin strategies to induct turncoats from the ruling party in Bengal.

In a meeting with the West Bengal functionaries on Friday in Delhi, the saffron party brass made it clear that the allegations of corruption against Mamata Banerjee's party will be one of the top agendas to sharpen attack in the next year's election.

Also, before inducting the turncoats, their public image will be scanned.

The turncoats having a clean image and considerable support at the ground level, will be fielded in urban and semi urban areas, while a lenient stand will be taken for defectors in the rural pockets.

Ahead of 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP's national leadership, which includes Prime Ministerial candidate Narendra Modi and his deputy Amit Shah, had hit out hard at Mamata Banerjee's while campaigning in West Bengal on alleged corruption issues.

"Recently, the state witnessed series of agitations against TMC's representatives in panchayat and municipality levels who were found diverting government compensation package meant for cyclone Amphan victims. We have been asked to use it as one of the key agendas in the next year's election along with other issues of irregularities of the ruling party. This time, our leadership in Delhi asked us to be careful before inducting defectors' public image," said a BJP leader.

Other than the Amphan corruption, the saffron camp's high-command also instructed the party's Bengal unit to highlight how the scam in the state's public distribution system (PDS) deprived migrants who returned during the lockdown, said the leader.

Bengal Congress Committee president critical
Condition of West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee president Somen Mitra, who was admitted to a nursing home, deteriorated on Saturday. He has been shifted to ICU. Doctors at the healthcare unit said Mitra developed fever, respiratory trouble.

J&K

Srinagar: 2 LeT militants killed in encounter

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

A top commander of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) was among two militants killed in an encounter with security forces on the outskirts of Srinagar on Saturday, police said.

It was the 5th encounter in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

The encounter ensued when the militants opened fire on a search team.

Security forces launched a cordon-and-search operation in the Ranbirgarh area on the outskirts of the city this morning following specific information about the presence of militants there, a police official said.

He said as the forces were conducting the search, militants fired upon them. The forces retaliated, triggering a gunfight.

The police said one of the two slain militants was identified as Ishfaq Rashid, a resident of Sozeith in Srinagar.

Rashid was one of the top LeT commanders active in Kashmir Valley since 2018. He was wanted in many cases of terror violence, the police said.

Yogi Adityanath visits Ram Temple construction workshop in Ayodhya | PTI

Yogi reviews 'bhoomi pujan' preparations

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

UTTAR Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday visited Ayodhya and placed the idols of Laxman, Bharat and Shatrughan on the new 'asans' at the Ram Janmabhoomi temple site.

The CM reached Ayodhya in the afternoon and took part in a 'puja'. He also offered prayers at the Hanumangarhi Temple and inspected the stones carved for Ram Temple at Mandir Nirmaan Karyashala.

He then held a meeting with seers and members of the Ram Mandir Trust at the Vishwa Hindu Parishad headquarters at Karsewak Puram.

Adityanath is on a short visit to Ayodhya to review the preparations for the foundation stone laying ceremony for the construction of the Ram Temple.

The trip comes ahead of the PM's expected visit to lay the foundation stone of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on August 5 . The construction of the temple will start with the ceremony to lay the foundation stone. A trust member had said that in view of the coronavirus pandemic, only 200 people would attend the ceremony and all social distancing norms will be followed at the event.

CM confirmed that the 'bhoomi poojan' event is to be celebrated on the lines of Diwali with all temples and residences lighting up diyas and candles to signify the return of Lord Rama to his home in Ayodhya after spending 14 years in exile as per Ramayan. The SC had on November 9 last year directed the Centre to hand over the site at Ayodhya for the construction of the Ram temple.

ALARMING

Flood situation in Bihar, Assam remains grim

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati/ Patna

ASSAM flood situation remained unchanged even as one more person died.

The death, which occurred in Morigaon district of Central Assam, took the toll to 97. Twenty-six others had lost their lives in rain-triggered landslides earlier.

Major rivers such as Brahmaputra, Dhansiri, Jia Bharali, Beki, Kopili, Sankosh and Kushiyara were flowing above the danger level.

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority, over 26.37 lakh people from 2,370 villages and localities across 27 of the state's 33 districts were still reeling under the flood. Of them, 47,772 were lodged in 564 relief camps.

Meanwhile, Bihar government has decided to provide financial assistance to the flood affected families now through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi said that the state government will provide assistance of ₹6,000 to each of the flood affected families after conducting proper assessment.

Covid slows down Motown, Maharashtra's industrial belt

Raging disease results in less attendance in offices & factories

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

MUMBAI has begun to win the battle against Covid-19, but Maharashtra's main industrial belt of Pune-Pimpri-Chinchwad-Chakan and Aurangabad, home to automobile majors such as BMW, Mercedes Benz and Volkswagen and top electronic industries, are grappling with the virus.

Consider this: Pune-Pimpri-Chinchwad-Chakan currently has 41,357 active cases but in comparison, Thane and Mumbai, the other Covid hotspots in the state, have 36,858 and 22,891 active cases.

Mumbai, however, is far ahead in deaths, with 4,899 persons succumbing to the disease. Pune-Pimpri-Chinchwad-Chakan has seen nearly 1,600 deaths so far. Aurangabad has got 4,215 active cases and seen 333 deaths. *(See graphic 1)*

The "alarming" rate of spread forced the Pune district administration to order a fresh lockdown from July 14 to July 23 to break the chain of transmission.

Some of India's top companies, including multinationals, have their factories in these two industrial belts, employing more than 10 lakh workers, both formal and informal *(See graphic 2)*.

But the raging disease has resulted in the firms having to cope with a reduced workforce even though many of the migrant workers who had left have returned.

While in Aurangabad only 70 per cent of the lakhs employed in top line companies are in attendance, in Pune-Pimpri-Chinchwad it is about 80 per cent.

It is difficult to put a finger on why the two industrial belts of Maharashtra are particularly affected by the virus. But Pimpri-Chinchwad municipal commissioner Shravan Hardikar said it could because many of the employees live in Pune but travel to Pimpri-Chinchwad for work, thereby carrying the virus with them.

"Earlier we had very few cases but after the lifting of the lockdown, which allowed people to travel from Pune to Pimpri-Chinchwad, there was a spike in the numbers," Hardikar said.

"We have now put restrictions on public movement. Only those who want to travel from one place to another with a valid reason are allowed. The cases are rising but we are confident it will come down," he added.

Aurangabad additional municipal commissioner Atik Kumar Pandey said they were leaving no stone unturned to contain the disease. He said Aurangabad had carried out the highest number of swab tests across India.

"It is 80,000 samples tested for per million population as against the state average of 7,000 tests per million population. It is our earnest effort to contain the virus from spreading and to bring back normalcy in the city and its surrounded areas," Pandey said.

In mid-May, there were only about 1,000 confirmed cases In Aurangabad. This went up to 4,000 by June end and currently it is in excess of 9,000.

The now-open, now-lockdown has hit the industries. "The local civic bodies are enforcing a strict lockdown and are prohibiting people from coming. This is hampering our supply. Our customers in Europe do not care about our local issues, they only want us to meet their demand on time," said Mukund Kulkarni, president of the CII, Aurangabad.

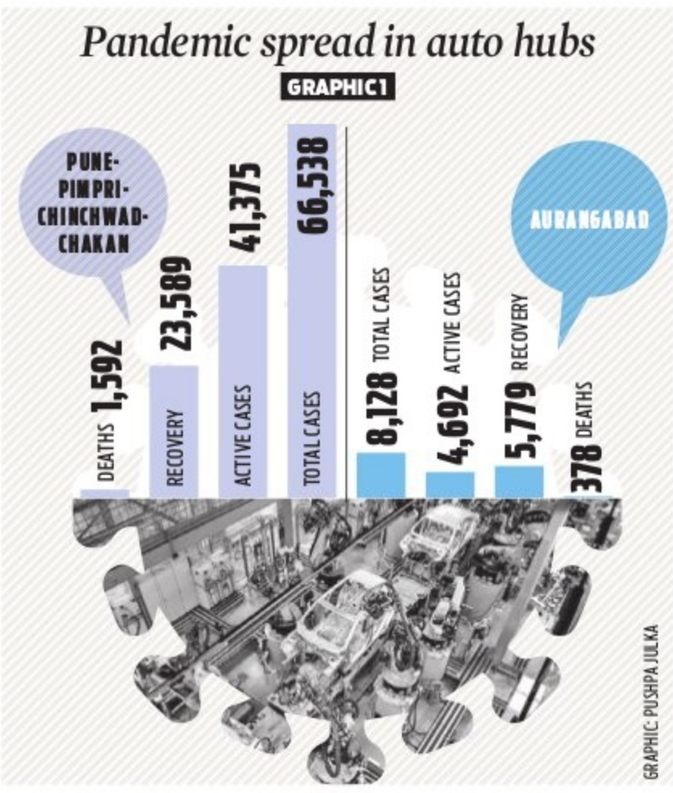
Kulkarni complained that local authorities were not being industry-friendly. "A few days back, there were some cases of Covid-19 in our industrial area so the authorities shut down all the plants for nine days. This is not good. We need to give confidence to the industry," he said.

The Pune industrial belt, dominated by automobile companies, earlier faced a labour shortage as many of the migrants had left. Now many of them were back but the auto manufacturers are not functioning at optimal capacity because of low demand.

"Ours is mostly automobile companies. Globally, demands are low so the companies here have slowed production. Once the demand picks up they will ramp up," said Dilip Batwal, secretary of the Federation of Chakan Industries.

Pandemic spread in auto hubs

GRAPHIC 1



GRAPHIC 2

PUNE-PIMPRI-CHINCHWAD-CHAKAN
4.50 LAKH Registered workers
Unregistered workers (daily wage earners) 1.50 LAKH
INDUSTRIES: Automobile, ancillary units, I-T
Industrial units 12,000
Annual industry turnover ₹1.30L CR
Major companies: BMW, Mercedes Benz, Mahindra & Mahindra, General Motors, Volkswagen, Tata Motors, Land Rover, Bajaj, Cummins Engines, Premier Motors, Kirloskar Oil Engine, Fiat, Bridgestone, Hyundai, Bharat Forge

AURANGABAD
3 LAKH Registered workers
1.50 LAKH Unregistered workers (daily wage earners)
INDUSTRIES: Automobile, pharmaceutical, ancillary units, tourism
Industrial units 4,500
Annual Industry turnover ₹60,000 CR

Major companies: Audi India, Skoda Auto, Bajaj Auto, Videocon, Siemens, Colgate-Palmolive

SHINING STAR

Domestic help's daughter tops board exam

MUKESH RANJAN @Ranchi

THE stories of girls outshining boys in most board exams are now passé. What we have now are bright young girls from poor backgrounds overcoming their limitations and getting to the top. Here's Nandita Haripal, daughter of a domestic help, in Jamshedpur. Nandita has topped Class-XII Jharkhand Academic Council (JAC) Board exams.

July 17 was the golden day for her. Within minutes of the results' declaration, the student from Jamshedpur Women's College was flooded with congratulatory calls. "My father did not believe it... he asked me to first confirm if they were calling the right person," says Nandita. Her own disbelief gradually gave way to a victor's smile.

Nandita has topped in Arts stream with 83.8%, securing a maximum of 90 in Hindi.

Nandita (C) earned by teaching students, while preparing herself | EXPRESS

She is extremely thankful to her parents who did not let money come into the way of their daughter's success. Nandita taught and earned whatever little she could by teaching two children of her locality even while sticking to her time-table. "Discipline matters, no matter what," she says. Nandita's mother Rashmi works as a domestic help for three houses. "It was really difficult for us to arrange money for the studies of our three children," says Rashmi. "Nandita's success has made us forget about our financial problems." Rashmi would take an advance to pay for her books and other expenses. "I have trusted my daughter. I am sure she would do something in her life," says the proud mother.

Nandita's father Rajesh Haripal works as a tailor at a boutique. "I will do whatever it takes to help my daughter to study further and achieve her goals," he says. There is an essential one more person who has always motivated Nandita: her tutor Pinky Kumari. "Nandita was very obedient and followed the instructions given to her," says the tutor. "She will be a source of inspiration to many others".

Nandita wants to be a journalist who can relate to the people through impartial reporting. "Only a journalist can raise issues related to the common man," she says. "On TV, for example, we must raise relevant issues without being abrasive and take views from all sides so that an opinion is firmed up for the betterment of the society," says Nandita. That's not a tall order, is it?

EXPRESS READ

'Ex-CMs made trips to health resorts'
Srinagar: Iltija Mufti, the daughter of detained PDP chief and former J&K chief minister Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday said two former J&K CMs have made trips to health resorts in Gulmarg and Pahalgam while she was denied permission to visit her grandfather late Mufti Sayeed's grave. Mehbooba is the only mainstream leader to be still under detention under Public Safety Act (PSA). She has been lodged at her Gupkar residence, which has been converted into a subsidiary jail.

Maoists kill leaders over disobedience
Raipur: In a rare incident, Maoists hacked two of their own men to death, who took the side of the people instead of carrying out their commands. Two jan-militia commanders were killed in full public view by the armed Maoists at Potali village in Dantewada district of Chhattishgarh. The rebels identified as Bajrang Vetti and Tindo Mandavi were asked to blow up a small bridge, but they failed to do so under pressure from villagers. As many 15 villagers were also beaten by the Red brigade.

PM may inaugurate Dobra-Chanti bridge
CM Trivendra Singh Rawat has requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate the Dobra-Chanti bridge, the country's longest motorable single-lane bridge in Tehri district. According to officials, the work on the bridge has been completed and only the final checks and load testing are left. The work is likely to finish by September. The ambitious project has been in the works for the past 14 years. The construction of the bridge was started in tenure of N D Tiwari government in 2006 and the estimated cost was around ₹89 crore at the time. The bridge will serve a population of around 3 lakh.

VINEET UPADHYAY
Our correspondent in Dehradun
vineet.upadhyay@newindianexpress.com

DEHRADUN DIARY

IAF requested to prepare three landing grounds
Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has sent a proposal to the Centre urging the Indian Air Force to prepare at least three advanced landing grounds in the forward areas in the state to help armed forces transport both men and material to the border areas in case there is a requirement. In the proposal, the Uttarakhand government has said that the Indian Air Force should develop the airstrips in Chamoli, Uttarkashi and Pithoragarh for both military and civilian purposes. The proposal comes at a time when India has stepped up efforts to build infrastructure along the Line of Actual Control despite border tensions with China. The airstrips can also play an important role in terms of helping people in times of disasters and boost tourism.

U'khand women to get land ownership rights soon
Uttarakhand state government is planning to give land ownership rights to women by amending the Uttarakhand Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act. The move is aimed to facilitate the women who are working in fields owned by their husbands especially in the hilly areas of the state. So far in Uttarakhand, land ownership rights are transferred to men in the family which are then passed on to their sons. The Uttarakhand government has been planning to introduce the amendment for the daughters and now it is also mulling the same for wives.

Justice Malimath to be acting CJ of U'khand HC
The Union ministry of law and justice last week issued notified the appointment of Justice Ravi Vijaykumar Malimath as the acting Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand high court (HC) from July 28. Justice Malimath, the senior-most judge of the HC, will replace Chief Justice Ramesh Ranganathan who is set to retire on July 27. 58-year-old Justice Malimath was enrolled as an advocate in January 1987 in Bengaluru and practised in constitutional, civil, criminal, labour and service matters at the Karnataka HC. He was later appointed as the additional judge of the Karnataka HC in February 2008 and permanent judge in Feb 2010.

6,35,173
Covid-19 deaths recorded in total as of Saturday, according a tracker run by the WHO.

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	29	22	LR	Los Angeles	25	15	SNY
Colombo	30	25	TDS	Melbourne	12	6	LC
Doha	40	31	SNY	Moscow	22	15	LR
Dubai	41	31	SNY	New York	35	24	SNY
Houston	29	21	TDS	Singapore	30	25	TDS
Istanbul	30	20	SNY	Toronto	34	22	SNY
London	23	15	LC	Washington DC	35	25	LC

Australia rejects Beijing's claims in South China Sea, backs US

China's claims in maritime region are unlawful, Oz said in latest escalation, echoing the US, which has already declared Chinese pursuit of territory there as illegal

SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA has rejected Beijing's territorial and maritime claims in the South China Sea in a formal declaration to the United Nations, aligning itself more closely with Washington in the escalating row.

In a statement filed on Friday, Australia said there was "no legal basis" to several disputed Chinese claims in the sea including those related to the construction of artificial islands on small shoals and reefs.

"Australia rejects China's claim to 'historic rights' or 'maritime rights and interests' as established in the 'long course of historical practice' in the South China Sea," the declaration read.

"There is no legal basis for China to draw straight baselines connecting the outermost points of maritime features or 'island groups' in the South China Sea, including around the 'Four Sha' or 'continental' or 'outlying' archipelagos."

The declaration comes after US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo declared Beijing's pursuit of territory and resources in the South China Sea as illegal, explicitly backing the territorial claims of Southeast Asian countries against China's.

Beijing claims almost all of the South China Sea based on a so-called nine-dash line, a vague delineation from maps dating back to the 1940s.

The latest escalation comes ahead of annual talks between Australia and the United States, with ministers travelling to Washington for the first time since Australian borders were closed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

'Critical time'

The meetings come at a "critical time" and it is essential they are held face-to-face, Foreign Minister Marise Payne and Defence Minister Linda Reynolds said in a statement on Saturday. US relations with China have markedly deteriorated in recent months, especially over trade disputes, the coronavirus pandemic and Beijing's crackdown on dissent in Hong Kong.

On Friday, Beijing ordered the US consulate in Chengdu to shut in retaliation for the closure of its Houston mission over accusations of being a hub for intellectual property theft.

Payne and Reynolds also penned an article in The Australian newspaper on Saturday, labelling national security legislation imposed on Hong Kong last month as "sweeping and vague". *AFP*

A reef in the Spratly Islands chain in the South China Sea | AP

HEART OF THE DISPUTE

- **$5 trillion** in ship-borne trade passes through the South China Sea every year
- Large oil and gas deposits are believed to lie underneath the unexplored seabed
- China claims almost all of the South China Sea and routinely objects to any action by the US military in the region. Five other governments claim all or part of the sea
- China has sought to shore up its claim to the sea by building military bases on coral atolls, leading the US to sail its warships through the region

TENDER CARE
Newborn babies infected with the coronavirus at the ICU of a clinic in Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic | AFP

World sees record number of fresh coronavirus cases

PARIS

THE world has set a new record for the highest daily increase in coronavirus infections, as a survey released Saturday showed governments are losing support for their handling of the pandemic.

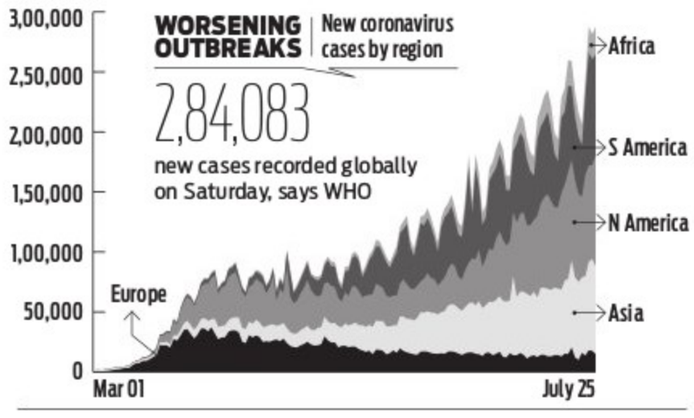
There were more than 280,000 new cases recorded globally on both Thursday and Friday, the highest daily rises since the virus emerged in China late last year.

Friday's tally of 282,042 was marginally down on Thursday's single-day record 284,661, according to an AFP count based on official sources, but still marks an alarming uptick in the spread of the virus.

Nearly a third of the world's 15.8 million infections have been registered since July 1, while the total death toll nears 640,000. The United States remains the hardest-hit nation, on Friday reporting its second straight day of more than 70,000 new cases and over 1,000 deaths as the virus takes hold in the country's south and west.

A similar resurgence in Europe has prompted the World Health Organization to sound the alarm over the spread, as Britain joined France, Germany and Austria in tightening rules on mask-wearing as well as rolling out greater testing.

Governments worldwide have struggled to contain the virus despite long and economically-cripping lockdowns imposed on millions of people, and a survey released Saturday showed that faith in authorities is dwindling in six rich nations.



Populations in France, Germany, Britain, Japan, Sweden and the US widely believed death and infection figures to be higher than recorded, according to the study, which polled 1,000 people in each nation. "In most countries this month, support for national governments is falling," the report by the Kekst CNC communications consulting group said.

Big spike in South Korea

New outbreaks continue to wreak havoc elsewhere around the world, with fresh clusters emerging across Asia.

South Korea on Saturday reported its highest infections figure in nearly four months, and in Vietnam the first locally-transmitted case in nearly 100 days was detected.

Authorities in China said Friday they would introduce a new wave of testing in the port city of Dalian, home to about six million people, after fresh infections were detected there.

The local government's health commission said the city must "enter wartime mode" to prevent any spread as it announced on-the-spot nucleic acid tests for people using the subway system and new lockdowns for some communities.

That did not prevent the Chinese Super League kicking off behind closed doors on Saturday with the players of Guangzhou Evergrande and Shanghai Shenhua holding a minute's silence for the victims of the pandemic. *AFP*

US feds fire tear gas at Portland protesters

PORTLAND

THOUSANDS of protesters gathered outside the federal courthouse in Portland, Oregon, into the early hours Saturday, shooting fireworks at the building as plumes of tear gas dispensed by US agents, lingered above.

The demonstration went until federal agents entered the crowd around 2:30 a.m. and marched in a line down the street, clearing remaining protesters with tear gas at close range. They also extinguished a large fire in the street outside the courthouse.

Portland has been roiled by nightly protests for two months following the killing of George Floyd. President Donald Trump said he sent federal agents to Oregon's largest city to halt the unrest but state and local officials say they are making the situation worse. The clashes in Portland have further inflamed the nation's political tensions and triggered a crisis over the limits of federal power as Trump moves to send US officers to other Democratic-led cities he says are violent.

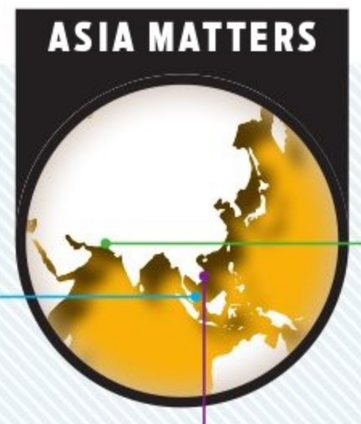
Late Friday a federal judge denied a request by Oregon's attorney general to restrict the actions of federal police.

The Federal Protective Service had declared the gathering in Portland that began Friday evening as "an unlawful assembly" and said that officers had been injured.

As the crowd dispersed, someone was found stabbed nearby, Portland police said. The person was taken to a hospital and a suspect was taken into custody.

By 3 a.m., most demonstrators had left, with only some small groups roaming the streets. Earlier Friday night, the protest had drawn many organized groups such as Healthcare Workers Protest, Teachers against Tyrants, Lawyers for Black Lives and the "Wall of Moms." *AP*

ASIA MATTERS



SINGAPORE

PM Lee announces new cabinet

Singapore PM Lee Hsien Loong on Saturday announced his new Cabinet, 15 days after his ruling People's Action Party bagged 61.24 per cent of the votes in the recent general election. The swearing-in ceremony for the Cabinet and other office holders will take place on Monday at the Istana. Heng Swee Keat remains in his posts as Deputy PM and Finance Minister. However, he has also been named as Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies. Teo Chee Hean retains his post as Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security, while Indian-origin Tharman Shanmugaratnam stays as Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for Social Policies. Both the ministers will also serve in the PM's office. Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan remains the Foreign Affairs Minister.

VIETNAM

1st virus case detected in nearly 100 days

Vietnam has detected its first locally-transmitted case of coronavirus in nearly 100 days, authorities said Saturday, in a country whose swift and full lockdown won praise for controlling the spread of the disease. "Patient 416" is a 57-year-old retired Vietnamese man in the southern city of Danang, and the first community transmission since April 16. Local health officials have tested 105 people who had been in close contact with him, the Ministry of Health said on its website.

PAKISTAN

103-yr-old recovers as infections continue to decline in the country

A 103-year-old Pakistani man has recovered from the coronavirus, making him one of the world's oldest survivors of the newest virus. Aziz Abdul Alim was tested positive this month and was discharged last week from a hospital, which was set up in May by a non-governmental organization in the northern town of Chitral. Alim says Friday he never lost hope during the illness, although he felt high-grade fever, cough and pain in his body. His recovery comes amid a steady decline in COVID-19 deaths and infections in the country. Pakistan has reported more than 270,000 confirmed infections and 5,763 deaths. On Saturday, Pakistan reported 1,487 new Covid-19 cases for the last 24 hours. A total of 236,596 people have recovered from the disease. As many as 29,503 patients are being treated at home or at various hospitals.

Mass protests swell in Russia's Far East in challenge to Putin

KHABAROVSK

TENS of thousands of people marched Saturday across Russia's Far East city of Khabarovsk on the border with China to protest the arrest of the regional governor on murder charges, continuing a two-week wave of protests that has challenged the Kremlin.

Sergei Furgal has been in a Moscow jail since his arrest on July 9, and Russian President Vladimir Putin has named an acting successor. Protesters in Khabarovsk see the charges against Furgal as unsubstantiated and demand that he stand trial at home.

"People are offended," said protester Dmitry Kachalin. "I think people take to the streets because their vote in the 2018 election was taken away."

Unlike Moscow, where police usually move quickly to disperse unsanctioned opposition protests, authorities haven't interfered with the unauthorized demonstrations in Khabarovsk, apparently expecting them to fizzle out in the city (6,1,00 km) east of the Russian capital.

People hold posters supporting Khabarovsk region's governor Sergei Furgal, who was interrogated and ordered to be held in jail for two months | AP

But daily protests, peaking at weekends, have gone on for two weeks, reflecting anger against what residents see as Moscow's disrespect of their choice for governor and simmering discontent with Putin's rule. Local officials' attempts to discourage people from joining the demonstrations by warning about the risk of coronavirus infection have been unsuccessful.

"We had enough," said protester Anastasia Schegorina. "We elected the governor and we want to be heard and decide ourselves what to do with him. Bring him here, and a fair and open trial will decide whether to convict him or not."

Protesters chanted "Freedom!" and "Russia, wake up!" and carried placards voicing support for Furgal and denouncing Putin.

Demonstrations were also held in other cities of the Russian Far East. *AP*

BITTER SPLIT

Harry felt unprotected by royal family, pushed Megxit: Book

Prince Harry (L) and Meghan (2nd R) follow Prince William (C) and Catherine (R) in this file photo | AFP

LONDON

PRINCE Harry and wife Meghan blamed "viper" courtiers for widening their rift with the royal family, according to extracts from a new book published in The Times on Saturday.

The couple say they did not contribute to the new biography "Finding Freedom", written by journalists Omid Scobie and Carolyn Durand, but friends of the couple provided much of its content. The book, serialised in The Times, will claim that Harry felt "unprotected" by his family, and lay bare his split from brother William and his wife Kate.

Kate even refused to make eye contact with her sister-in-law at their final engagement in March, according to the new release.

Harry apparently referred to senior courtiers as "vipers" who felt that the global popularity of the couple was overshadowing the family and "needed to be reined in", according to extracts.

The book, to be released on August 11, also suggested that Harry, 35, was the driving force behind the couple's move away from the family, with Meghan telling her husband that she "gave up my entire life for this family".

The couple now live in Los Angeles and were in the headlines this week for taking legal action against the media.

WEIRD, WHACKY AND WOW

Elvis impersonator sets world record in Norway

OSLO: A Norwegian Elvis Presley impersonator set a world record on Saturday by singing the legendary entertainer's songs for more than 50 hours straight in an online competition. Kjell Henning Bjornestad, whose stage name is Kjell Elvis, sang non-stop for 50 hours, 50 minutes and 50 seconds, smashing the previous record, recognised by the Guinness Book of Records, by over seven hours. The title of the previous Elvis champion, a German by the name of Thomas "Curtis" Gaethje, had remained intact for over 16 years.

7% The interest rate on gold loans offered by Indian Bank to farmers. The state-run lender has cut interest rate on its short-term gold loan scheme — Bumper Agri Jewel.

Stake sales aid ICICI Bank, Q1 net profit jumps 36%

The lender made ₹5,550 cr in additional Covid-19 related provisions

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

STAKE sale in two of its subsidiaries — ICICI Lombard and ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company — helped ICICI Bank's standalone profit for the June quarter to rise by 36 per cent to ₹2,599 crore.

"During Q1FY21, the bank sold equity shares representing 3.96 per cent in ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited and 1.5 per cent in ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited for a total consideration of ₹3,092.93 crore. The sale resulted in net gain (after sale related expenses) of ₹3,036.29 crore in standalone financial results and ₹2,715.87 crore in consolidated financial results for Q1FY21," the bank said in a regulatory filing.

ICICI Bank had reported net profit of ₹1,908 crore in the year-ago period. On a consolidated basis, net profit for the April-June period improved by 24 per cent at ₹3,117.68 crore against ₹2,513.69 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal.

"The slowdown in the economy is expected to result in higher additions to non-performing loans, increase in provisions, lower loan growth and fee income"
ICICI Bank

Total income during the quarter rose to ₹26,066 crore from ₹21,405.50 crore a year earlier, the bank added. Net interest income rose nearly 20 per cent to ₹9,278 crore.

The bank also admitted that the lockdown imposed due to Covid-19 impacted its loan books adversely. "During Q1FY21, the loan growth was impacted due to lower credit demand and fee income declined due to lower borrowing and investment activity by customers and lower consumer spends, " the bank added.

The lender reported an improvement in asset quality with gross non-performing assets (NPAs) felling to 5.46 per cent of the gross advances by the end of June 2020, from 6.49 per cent a year ago. Net NPA ratio decreased from 1.41 per cent in March quarter to 1.23 per cent in June quarter and 1.77 per cent a year ago.

In the first quarter of the current fiscal, the bank has made an additional Covid-19-related provision amounting to ₹5,550 crore. However, because of poor macroeconomic conditions the bank expects "higher additions to non-performing loans, increase in provisions, lower loan growth and fee income".

LIQUIDITY BOOST

NBFCs, HFCs seek ₹14K cr financial help

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

STRESSED non-banking financial companies and housing finance companies have sought financing requests worth ₹14,000 crore under the ₹30,000-crore special liquidity scheme, the finance ministry said.

"As on July 23, five proposals involving an amount of ₹3,090 crore have already been sanctioned. Further, 35 more applications have been received seeking financing up to ₹13,776 crore, which are under process," the ministry added. The scheme was launched on July 1 for stressed NBFCs and HFCs whose financial health deteriorated further due to the Covid-19 crisis. The Reserve Bank of India has provided funds via government guaranteed special securities issued by a trust set up by SBI Capital Markets Ltd.The scheme is being implemented by SLS Trust, the special purpose vehicle set up by SBICAP.

"Any NBFC including microfinance institutions registered with RBI under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (excluding those registered as core investment firms) and any HFC registered with the National Housing Bank under the National Housing Bank Act, 1987, complying with certain specified conditions are eligible to raise funding from this faciliyu," it said. The special scheme will remain open for three months.

Fintech start-ups raise $5.4 bn in 2019-2020

BISMAH MALIK @ Bengaluru

INDIA's fintech start-ups have received a staggering $5.4 billion funding in 2019 and 2020 so far, with large deal –sizes concentrated in late stages whereas the maximum deal flow was seen in the early stages (Angel, Seed, SeriesA), finds the second edition of India fintech report.

Currently, the country has a total number of 2,147 fintech start-ups, a majority of which were founded during 2015-2020. That apart the fintech start-up ecosystem is also the second largest in the world, after the US, thanks to massive internet penetration, Aadhar-based identity formalisation , access of banks, fintech / lending players to digital platforms like UPI, IMPS , BBPS.

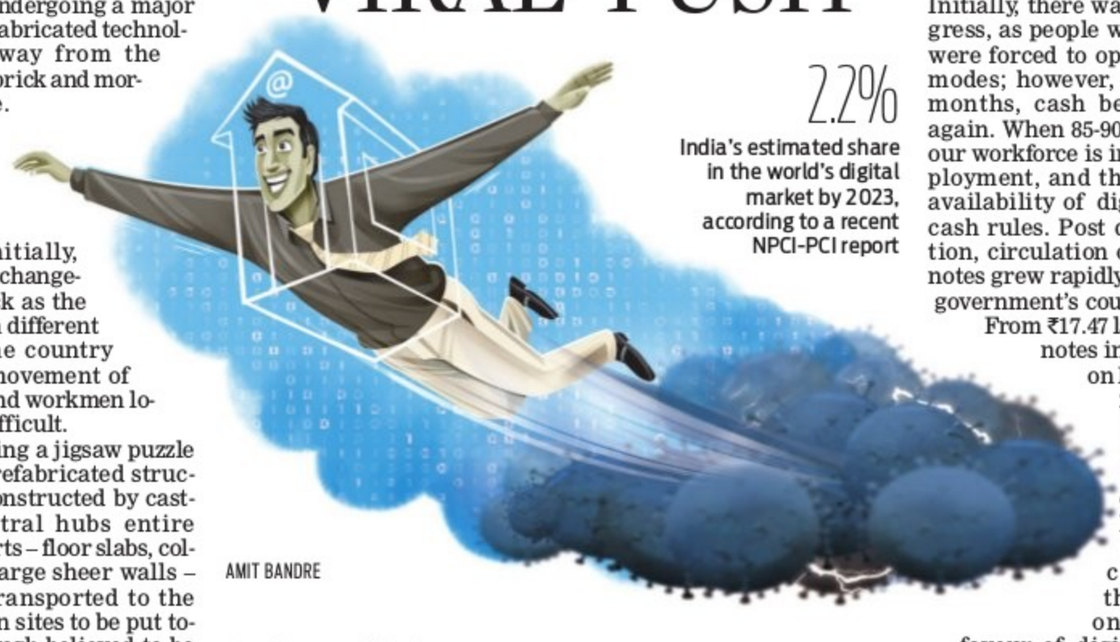
The top 8 funding deals in the fintech industry in 2019 was led by the country's largest digital payments company, Paytm and its parent organization, One97 Communications. Paytm received $1,000 million in a Series G round whereas One97 raised $ 668 million in a Series G round in December, 2019. Serial entrepreneur and CEO Navi Technologies, Sachin Bansal's investment firm raised $395 million from undisclosed sources in April, 2020 when the deal flow slowed down in India due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the report, the second wave, or 'FinTech 2.0' will be led by Neobanks that aim to redefine consumer and business banking experiences. About 405 start-ups are present in the digit payments space and digital lending is also emerging to be an attractive area especially with entrepreneurs including Paytm CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma and Bansal announcing their plans to foray into the microfinance sector leveraging technology.

GURBIR SINGH

NEWSCOPE

DIGITAL EVOLUTION GETS A 'VIRAL' PUSH



AMIT BANDRE

2.2% India's estimated share in the world's digital market by 2023, according to a recent NPCI-PCI report

ONEROUS market conditions are forcing big changes in business practices. More important, the consumer's behaviour too is changing for the better. Unlike demonetization in November 2016, which was a short-term blip, the crisis from the novel coronavirus will carry forward with long-term changes.

The construction industry for one is undergoing a major shift to prefabricated technology and away from the traditional brick and mortar route. Prefab was used for large affordable housing projects initially, but now the changeover is quick as the lockdown in different parts of the country has made movement of materials and workmen logistically difficult.

Like putting a jigsaw puzzle together, prefabricated structures are constructed by casting at central hubs entire building parts – floor slabs, columns and large sheer walls – and then transported to the construction sites to be put together. Though believed to be 20 per cent more expensive, there is net saving as speed of construction is 25-30 per cent faster with half the requirement of manpower on construction sites.

A 400-bed hospital for instance is currently being built at Kasargod, in Kerala, by Tata Projects Ltd using prefabricated structures made in Jamshedpur, and then shipped by road to the Kerala site. For those who use these structures, it will be a new cultural experience as there is no plaster on the smooth precast walls. At the construction sites, workers will need a higher skill set as they slot together giant columns and slabs using cameras and internet-enabled hand devices. One envisages, few construction groups will go back to the messy, old brick-and-mortar systems.

Anti-Corona fabrics

There are, of course, those who quickly shifted to cater to immediate demands – pharmaceutical and FMCG units that focused on sanitizers and textile units that cashed in on the demand for PPE suits. This may dry up but the big textile brands have realized that the virus is here to stay, and have therefore reworked their priorities to include fabric that is antiviral and anti-microbial. This assumes that on traditional textile surfaces, certain viruses can survive up to two days.

Seeing this niche, most textile big brands have announced 'anti-virus' clothing and luxury wear. Peter England, an Aditya Birla menswear brand, has tied up with a Swiss-based HeiQ to launch fashionable workwear and even masks at pocket-pinching prices. Siyaram, another big menswear brand, has collaborated with Australian company Health-Guard to develop what it claims is an anti-coronavirus fabric.

But it's in the way we handle cash, that is seeing a definitive shift. In the last quarter of calendar 2019, a significant milestone was achieved when the total value of card and mobile payments at ₹10.57 lakh crore for the first time exceeded ATM withdrawals which were at ₹9.12 lakh crore. This gap has further expanded now.

Digital money

A variety of reasons has speeded up the switchover from cash to digital transfers. The fear of the virus sitting on physical money, and the reduction of face-to-face contact during lockdown, has helped the growth of digital money. The Reserve Bank (RBI) estimates that digital transactions will jump to 1.5 billion transactions valued at ₹15 lakh crore a day by 2025 from the current level of about 100 million transactions worth ₹5 lakh crore a day. The current levels again are about 5 times the volume witnessed in June 2016.

One of the important reasons cited for the not-so-successful demonetization move of November 2016, when high denomination notes of ₹500 and ₹1,000 were scrapped, was the government's intent to make India a digital economy. Initially, there was rapid progress, as people without cash were forced to opt for digital modes; however, after 6 to 9 months, cash became king again. When 85-90 per cent of our workforce is in casual employment, and there is little availability of digital credit, cash rules. Post demonetization, circulation of currency notes grew rapidly despite the government's counter-claims. From ₹17.47 lakh crore of notes in circulation on November 4, 2016, the figure had surged to ₹21.71 lakh crore by May 31, 2019. Current conditions though are once again in favour of digital options. The most recent Payments Council of India (PCI) and PwC report estimates that India will contribute 2.2 per cent to the world's digital market by 2023. Interestingly, the 'home-grown' digital payments infrastructure including Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Bharat QR and mobile wallets have captured the pockets of small merchants, and even hawkers and street sellers. In volume, it is estimated that there will be 59 million transactions by 2023 and that "UPI has witnessed a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 785 per cent in volume and 570 per cent in value from FY2017 to FY 2020.

When a small nursery owner in Raigad district, off Mumbai, insisted he be paid for plants and shrubs not in cash but a Google Pay transfer, then indeed the digital age has arrived.

EXPRESS READ

Zee Entertainment posts Q4 net loss at ₹766 cr on higher operating costs

New Delhi: On account of rising operational cost, Leading media house Zee Entertainment Enterprise Ltd (ZEEL) on Saturday reported a consolidated net loss of ₹765.82 crore for the fourth quarter of FY20 as against a net profit of ₹292.53 crore reported in the previous year. Operational cost went up by 47.69 per cent to ₹1,304.62 crore.

Mahanagar Gas hikes CNG prices by ₹1

New Delhi: State-run gas utility Mahanagar Gas on Saturday announced a marginal Re 1 per kg increase in the price of compressed natural gas (CNG) to ₹48.95 per kg in and around Mumbai.

Welspun launches ₹1100 cr manufacturing facility in Telangana

New Delhi: Welspun Flooring, a fully integrated and independent flooring vertical of the $2.7 billion Welspun Group, has launched its ₹1,100 crore manufacturing facility at nearby Chandanvelly. The company will invest ₹400 crore over a span of two financial years, B K Goenka, Chairman, Welspun Group, said in a statement on Saturday.

'No delay in Volkswagen's India 2.0 project, will focus on SUVs'

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

DESPITE Covid-19 pandemic creating havoc in the Indian automotive industry, German carmaker Volkswagen sees no changes or delays in their upcoming India 2.0 project.

"We are extremely focused on our India 2.0 project and are relentlessly working towards achieving our project timelines. As of now, we don't foresee any delays and are very much on-track," Steffen Knapp, Director, Volkswagen Passenger Cars India told this daily.

Knapp informed that Volkswagen Taigun (built on the MQB A0 IN platform) will be launched in 2021 and in the near future their product strategy for India is entrenched on SUVs such as the recently launched the Volkswagen T-Roc & Tiguan Allspace.

To change its fortune in the Indian market and capture a significant market share, the Volkswagen Group announced its ambitious 2.0 project in 2018 where it committed an investment of 1 billion euro.

Steffen Knapp, Director, Volkswagen Passenger Cars India

On the future of diesel cars in India, Knapp said demand for it will reduce in the majority of the segment. "The fluctuation of fuel prices between petrol-diesel and the advent of BS6 norms have resulted in increased demand for petrol-powered cars in the small to mid-segment cars. While we may see consumer interest in diesel cars, the demand for it will reduce in the majority of the segment," Knapp said.

Knapp also said that electric vehicle is the need of the hour and Volkswagen, is at the verge of democratising the technology with its all-new MEB platform. "We are now evaluating the market situation and infrastructural development across India" he added.

Shibulal's son held 1.8 cr Infy shares till June

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SHIBULAL's wife Kumari Shibulal owned 1.04 crore shares (0.25 per cent), son Shreyas Shibulal had 1.80 crore shares (0.66 per cent) and daughter Shruti Shibulal had 27.37 lakh shares (0.06 per cent).

Shibulal's grandson Milan Manchanda held 1.54 crore equity shares (0.36 per cent), son-in-law Gaurav Manchanda had 1.55 crore paid-up equity shares (0.36 per cent) and daughter-in-law Bhairavi Madhusudan Shibulal held 63.34 lakh shares (0.15 per cent) stake in the IT company, as per a statement showing shareholder pattern of the Promoter and Promoter group of Infosys on the Bombay Stock Exchange.

Shibulal co-founded Infosys in 1981 along with N R Narayana Murthy and five others. After stepping down as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in 2014, Shibulal co-founded Axxilor ventures with Kris Gopalakishnan, a firm that invests in deep tech startups.

Business & Beyond

SAIL develops highly corrosion resistant Super Duplex

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), in a major technological breakthrough, has developed the capability to produce Super Duplex Stainless Steel in SS 32205 grade at its Salem Steel Plant (SSP). Currently, SAIL is among the few Indian steelmakers which has developed this grade of steel. This grade of stainless steel is mainly imported so far. The Super Duplex Stainless Steel has superior corrosion resistance with higher strength and formability.

Dhutra-Bamra 3rd line in SER on track

The 3rd Line between Dhutra and Bamra (27.9 km) in Chakradharpur Division of South Eastern Railway (SER) has been completed and Inspection by Commissioner of Railway Safety was held on July 25, 2020. This is a part of the important 3rd Line project between Rourkela-Jharsuguda (101 km) on Howrah-Mumbai main line and was sanctioned in 2015-16. The estimated cost is ₹1,312.93 crore. The 3rd Line between Dhutra-Bamra has been completed at a cost of ₹362 crore.

Hyundai Launches VENUE with iMT and Sport Trim

Hyundai Motor India Ltd, country's first Smart Mobility Solutions Provider, has launched the highly anticipated Intelligent Manual Transmission (iMT) and introduced Sport trim in VENUE. Commenting on the occasion, MD & CEO SS Kim, said, "VENUE – India's First Connected and most awarded SUV of 2019-2020, has now launched. With this, we are once again setting new standards for the industry."

CLW builds 50 locos in FY21

Chittaranjan Locomotive Works(CLW) produced 50 locos of the FY 2020-21 (bearing no 32814) of WAG-9HC class till July 22, 2020, despite prevailing constraints of COVID-19. The staff and supervisors are taking all precautions to ensure safety amid coronavirus and sanitisation of workplaces by the public health staff are being conducted.

LIC-UBI announce corporate agency pact

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and Union Bank of India, after its amalgamation with Corporation Bank and Andhra Bank, have announced a corporate agency agreement to distribute LIC policies. "Union Bank of India can act as a financial supermarket by offering a basket of products to its account holders, whereby they can select products according to their choice," said K Kadiresan, Zonal Manager, LIC of India, in a statement. The bank will market LIC products of term insurance, pension, plan, children plan, ULIPs, and endowment schemes.

EMAO launches website, invite members to take part

With an objective to bring together all stakeholders of the event management industry, give the industry a streamlined structure and work towards its overall development in a collaborative space, the Event Management Association of Odisha (EMAO) has opened the registration process for members with the launch of its official website. Terming it the 'Beginning of Good Times' during this uncertain period, the association have called upon everyone associated with the sector to be a part of the team. The association also has four advisory members including Odia actor Kuna Tripathy.

WC winner Xavi tests positive for coronavirus

Former Barcelona star Xavi Hernandez has tested positive for coronavirus, his Qatari club Al-Sadd said on Saturday, adding the 2010 World Cup winner from Spain would miss their league restart fixture against Al-Khor. Xavi, 40, recently quashed rumours that he was preparing to move back to Barcelona and signed on for another season at the helm of the Qatari top-flight side.

Postponed Khelo India Games to be held in Panchkula

Supposed to be held in January 2021, the annual sporting ritual for youth will now be conducted after Tokyo Olympics in July-August because of pandemic

AYANTAN CHOWDHURY @New Delhi

THE fourth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games is set to be held in Panchkula, Haryana in 2021. This was announced by sports minister Kiren Rijiju via video conference on Saturday. The event is scheduled to be held after the Tokyo Olympics from July 23-August 8. Interestingly, the last Khelo India Youth Games was held in Guwahati earlier this year.

The coronavirus pandemic put paid to the sports ministry's plans of conducting the meet this year. The new dates will be revealed after the Olympics. "Usually the Khelo India Youth Games take place in January every year. However, this time owing to the pandemic, we are having to postpone it. However, I am sure by the time we host the Games the pandemic will abate and we will be able to host the Games at the same scale, with participation of all states and over 10,000 participants," Rijiju said. The minister also added that prior to the lockdown, a comprehensive calendar was created but had to be dropped due to the pandemic. However a decision on the Khelo India University Games has not been taken.

The postponement of the KIYG would affect the selection of athletes to be inducted into the Khelo India academy as well as their monetary compensation. A portion of the annual intake into the academy is done via the Games and that will be delayed this year but sources in the ministry are hopeful of finishing the process in 2021 itself. "The usual time period taken for performance review is around three months post completion. Our initial plan was to induct athletes by 2021 and while a delay is inevitable, we hope to complete it before the year-end," sources in the ministry said. Speaking about Haryana hosting the next edition, Minister Rijiju said, "I am very happy to announce Haryana as the host state. The Games has been instrumental in identifying grassroot level talent from across the country. Haryana already has a very strong sporting culture and has given the country some of its best athletes. I am sure that with the Games being hosted in the state, more and more aspiring athletes from Haryana will be motivated to take up competitive sport."

Kiren Rijiju with Haryana sports minister Sandeep Singh in New Delhi on Sunday

The announcement was made in the presence of Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar, Sandeep Singh, Haryana sports minister, sports secretary Ravi Mittal and SAI DG Sandip Pradhan.

University Games

Due to the prevailing uncertainty, no fixed calendar for the other Khelo India verticals has been decided. The last edition of the Khelo India University Games was held in Bhubaneswar in February this year. A call on when and where the next edition will take place will be taken post the Youth Games. "As of now no decision has been taken on it. We will get a clearer picture post the KIYG hopefully," sources indicated.

SUNDAY SPECIAL

Recovery & speed key to success in IPL: Gloster

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @Chennai

FORMER India team physio John Gloster, who handles the fitness component of Rajasthan Royals, welcomes the move to have the IPL in September. In a chat with this daily, the Australian says injuries are part and parcel of the game and states that recovery management is the key to success for teams in the shortest format of the game. Excerpts...

IPL looks to be held in September, your thoughts?
It will be a great thing to have the IPL. We need to be prepared for the tournament. Safety of the players and support staff will be vital.

How different is T20 from the other formats?
The biggest difference is speed. The noticeable difference we were able to log with the use of the GPS where speeds are much higher. What we call high speed running (efforts). T20 cricket is about 30% more than Test cricket, so you need to prepare adequately for the speed of the game.

Your advice to players...
A modern cricketer has to be strong and agile, but they also got to possess speed. All the training they've been doing during this lockdown has been focussed on building the foundation skills. So this is a good opportunity for them to build on that.

Many players tend to get injured during IPL. What are your suggestions to stay injury-free?
If your preparation is good and if you're are confident of your body, there is less chance of injuries. That comes from the understanding of each individual player, knowing the player intimately is vital when it comes to injuries. Also, the speed of the game is so much higher so the players, while attempting to dive for balls (fielding), put more pressure on their bodies. We need to make the players more durable, therefore they need to be stronger. In order to reduce injury, we need to improve recovery.

Will a two-week camp help the players get in shape?
A minimum of two weeks as a combined group will be good, but that depends on what the players have been doing during the lockdown. In some areas, there is less restrictions so they've been able to get outside and running and bowling. In other areas like Bengaluru, there is very limited opportunity to get out and do any training.

Has Virat Kohli, with his physique, taken fitness to a different level?
The good thing about Virat is that he is fitness conscious. The way he trains isn't like how everyone else trains. Everybody has to train individually. Virat has set the standard and if you want to compete on the international stage, you have to be fit.

Steve Smith is one of the few players to play all the three formats and looks fit, your thoughts...
Steve is a natural athlete. He has a solid foundation on fitness and he works on that. He understands that each format of the game requires a particular workload and works accordingly.

After one & two, it's three & four

The champions may have been identified but there is still a lot to play for in the final round of the Premier League. Here's a look at the fixtures that will grab eyeballs...

BATTLE FOR CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

MAN UNITED (3RD, 63 POINTS) VS LEICESTER (5TH, 62 POINTS)

The task in front of United is simple, avoid defeat. It's something they have done well this year but their defenders are not in a good form. Against the likes of Jamie Vardy, that could prove to be quite problematic. Saying that, the Foxes have a truckload of injuries. And they are in a tailspin at the moment. If this match ends in a draw and Chelsea lose against Wolves, both Leicester and United will make it to the Champions League. Confused?

CHELSEA (4TH, 63 POINTS) VS WOLVES (6TH, 59 POINTS)

Wolves can still make life very hard for Frank Lampard's man. If they manage a win, the Blues will depend on a favour from Man United to get back into the top tier of European competition. The visitors will undoubtedly look to capitalise on Chelsea's frailty from set-pieces. If that happens, Wolves, who could yet qualify for the Champions League if they win the Europa League, will finish fifth, a great incentive to have.

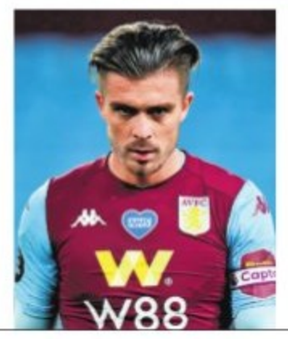
SUNDAY FIXTURES (ALL AT 8.30 PM IST)

Chelsea vs Wolves (Star Sports Select 1/HD), Leicester City vs Man United (Star Sports 1), Southampton vs Sheffield United, Newcastle vs Liverpool (Star Sports Select 2 HD), West Ham vs Aston Villa, Burnley vs Brighton, Arsenal vs Watford (Star Sports Select 2), Man City vs Norwich City, Crystal Palace vs Tottenham, Everton vs Bournemouth.

BATTLE FOR RELEGATION

ARSENAL (10TH, 53 POINTS) VS WATFORD (18TH, 34 POINTS)

With Arsenal having one eye on the FA Cup final, there could be a possibility of Watford getting something here. If Watford don't get at least a point, barring a mini miracle, they could well start next season in the Championship.



WEST HAM (15TH, 38 POINTS) VS ASTON VILLA (17TH, 34 POINTS)

Villa are out of the drop zone only on goal difference. That impressive win over Arsenal will count for nothing if they fail to beat the hosts who have nothing to play for. If Watford lose, they will only go down if they lose by a bigger margin.

EVERTON (11TH, 49 POINTS) VS BOURNEMOUTH (19TH, 31 POINTS)

Eddie Howe, for long, has been hailed as a coaching guru of sorts. He may have led Bournemouth from the dying embers to the PL but this is perhaps his biggest test yet. They not only need a win but also hope that both Watford and Villa lose their matches.

EXPRESS READ

Golfer Atwal makes cut at 3M Open

BLAINE (US): Golfer Arjun Atwal made the cut for the weekend action at the 3M Open with a couple of excellent par saves at the fag end of the second round for a four-under 67. Atwal is two-under 140 and Tied-51st.

Marquez out of race, Quartararo grabs pole

JEREZ: World champ Marc Marquez will not start the Andalucia MotoGP in Jerez after dropping out of qualifying on Saturday. Frenchman Fabio Quartararo grabbed pole.
Andalucia MotoGP | Live on Eurosport/Eurosport HD from 2:30 pm

Stuart Broad hit 62 off 45 deliveries & went on to claim two wickets | AFP

ADVANTAGE ENGLAND AFTER DAY 2

MANCHESTER: STUART Broad sparked a top-order collapse after starring with the bat as England reduced the West Indies to 137-6 at stumps on the second day of the decisive third Test at Old Trafford on Saturday. England had slumped to 280-8 after losing four wickets for 18 runs before No 10 Broad's swashbuckling 62 took them to a first innings total of 369. When bad light forced an early close, West Indies were 232 runs behind, needing 33 more to avoid the follow-on. West Indies captain Jason Holder was unbeaten 24 and Shane Dowrich 10 not out. Veteran new-ball duo Broad and James Anderson, paired together for the first time this series, both had stumps figures of 2-17. Broad struck with just his fourth ball to have West Indies dangerman Kraigg Brathwaite caught at slip by England captain Joe Root for one. Jofra Archer, back after being omitted from England's 113-run win in the second Test, claimed one wicket.

Brief scores: England (*o/n 258/4*) 369 in 111.5 ovs (Pope 91, Buttler 67, Broad 62; Roach 4/72) vs WI 137/6 in 47.1 ovs (Anderson 2/17, Broad 2/17).

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that our client is intending to purchase immovable property **No.125 1st Block 8th stage, J.P.Nagar Extension, Bangalore** and tht the owners claim to have lost the Original Khata and Letter of Allotment in transit and the same has been reported to the Bengaluru City Police, any person/s having any objection/claim for the said transaction may lodge their claim in writing to the undersigned **within seven(7) days** of the publication hereof with documentary proof, failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims/objections and our client will be at liberty to proceed with the transaction, to **Vishwanath Shendge, Advocate,** #95, Infantry Road, Bangalore – 560001.
Mob: 9886303092.

QuoteExpress
IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH HELL, KEEP GOING
WINSTON CHURCHILL

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client **Smt. L.S. Lalitha, D/o Late L.S. Sampath, residing at No.39/03, Patalamma Temple Street, Basavangudi, Bengaluru-560004,** has revoked the registered General Power Of Attorney dated: 03-10-2019 in your favour as per document No.BSG-4 00217-2019-20, Stored in CD No.BSGD535, Stored in the Book No.4, in the office of the sub registrar, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru duly executed by "L.S.Lalitha in favour of one Mr. T.S. Dwarknatha S/o Late T.K.Srinivasan. It is hereby informed to the general public to restrain from making out any acts or deed on the bases of the General Power of Attorney date: 03-10-2019, the General Public are hereby warned that any transaction whatsoever with respect to said GPA dated: 03- 10-2019, will be invalid and not binding on my client.
GANESH GOWDA N., Advocate No. 18, 2nd Floor, HMS Complex, Cubbonpet Main Road, Bangalore-560 002.

DISTRICT SURGEON, SNR DISTRICT HOSPITAL, KOLAR
Ph No. 08152-222035 e-mail : dskolar@gmail.com
No: SNR/SUP/COVID-19/01/2020-21 Date: 20.07.2020
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
The SNR District Hospital, Kolar invites a tender through **e-Tendering** system under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the purchase of Medical Equipments & Consumables for treating the covid-19 patients. Details regarding specification, EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information is available in the tender document, which can be downloaded from the website: **https://eproc. karnataka.gov.in** from **21.07.2020 to 27.07.2020.** The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under e-Procurement platform for above mentioned tender. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.
Sd/- District Surgeon, SNR District Hospital, Kolar
ವಾಸಸಂಖ್ಯ/ ಕೋವಾರ/ ಆರ್.ಟಿ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 147/ ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/ 2020-21

THE MUSLIM ORPHANAGE
43, Dickenson Road, Bangalore-560 042
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
No. MO/Commercial Building/Const/Tender/2020-21 Date: 25/07/2020
Sealed Tenders are invited from individual reputed, well experienced and licensed MEP/ Lift / Mechanical Car parking Contractors/firms who have executed a single work of Rs. 15/20/5 Crores respectively, for the said scope of work & has annual turnover of Rs. 150 / 100 / 50 Crore respectively and above for the Proposed Construction of a Commercial Building at No.332, Thimmiah Road/Queens Road Junction, annexed to "Darus Salam" Building, Bangalore-560 052, belonging to the Muslim Orphanage. (Registered Wakf), No. 43, Dickenson Road, Bangalore-560042.

PART B, PART C-1 & PART C-2

Date of issue of Tender	25/07/2020
Total Estimate Cost of Project	Rs. 12, 00, 00,000/- Approximately.
Part B -Electrical + PHE + Fire +CCTV + OWC + STP + WTP works	Rs. 90,00,000/- Approximately.
Part C.1-Lifts	Rs. 50,00,000/- Approximately.
Part C.2 - Mechanical Car Parking	Rs. 80,00,000/- Approximately.
Sale of Tender Document for Part B, Part-C-1 & Part-C-2	27/07/2020 to 03/08/2020
Cost of Tender Document	Rs. 1000/- plus (Rs.100/- extra for Postage/Courier Charges for outstation requests.
Last date and time of receipt of Tender.	10-08-2020 up to 3.00 pm
Date and time opening of tender	11-08-2020 at 3.30 pm
Earnest Money Deposit for each Tender	Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Only) in the form of Demand Draft/Pay order/ Bankers Cheque Drawn in favour of "Darus Salam PDC, The Muslim Orphanage, Bangalore, and Payable at Bangalore.
Proposed period of Completion of contract for all tender packages	4 months from the date of award of contract.

Terms & Conditions...Mentioned in the Tender Document
For Further Details Contact:
The Muslim Orphanage, # 43, Dickenson Road, Bangalore-560042
Phone: 080-25572059, 080-41264030
E-mail:themuslimorphanage1892@gmail.com
Sd/-
Hon. Secretary
Raksheenda Publicity: 9845064970

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Mahalakshmipuram Division, 12th Main, 11th Cross, West of Chord Road, Bangalore.
No.: EE/MLP/TEND/E-PROC/03/2020-21 Date: 24-07-2020
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GoK e-Procurement Portal only)
The Executive Engineer, Mahalakshmipuram Division, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP invites tenders from eligible contractors for the below mentioned works.

Sl. No.	Ward No.	Approx. Value of work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)	No. of Works
1st Call				
1	43	55.00 to 191.00	1,10,000/- to 2,86,500/-	04
2	44	51.00 to 100.00	1,02,000/- to 2,00,000/-	18
3	67	52.00 to 100.00	1,04,000/- to 2,00,000/-	08
4	74	80.00 to 200.00	1,60,000/- to 3,00,000/-	05
5	102	51.00 to 100.00	1,02,000/- to 2,00,000/-	04
2nd Call				
6	102	60.00 & 80.00	1,20,000/- & 1,60,000/-	02
		Total Number of works		41

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from GoK e-Procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** (2) Last date for submission of Tender through e-procurement: **05.09.2020 upto 3.00 PM.** (3) Date of Pre-bid meeting : **20.08.2020 at 11.30 AM in the above office.** (4) Date of opening of Technical Bids: **07.09.2020 at 5.00 PM.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mahalakshmipuram Division
"Pay development charges, help to develop Bengaluru"

QuoteExpress
IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE › NELSON MANDELA

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of The Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagara Division, 2nd Floor, Shakthi Soudha, 13th Cross Road, 4th B Main Road, M.C. Layout, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru - 560040
No.: EE(GRN)/TN/GL-09/2020-21 Date : 24-07-2020
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GoK e-Procurement Portal Only) (Single Cover Works)
The Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagara Division, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP invites Item Rate Basis tenders from eligible contractors for the below mentioned works.

Sl. No.	Name of Works	Estimate Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Emergency work at ward Jurisdiction in Ward No.128.	10.00	25,000/-
2	Engaging the labours and Hiring Tractor for Debris Removal and Clearing the Drains in Ward No.131.	20.00	50,000/-
3	Engaging slit and tractor in Ward No.106, Dr. Rajkumar Ward.	20.00	50,000/-
4	Construction of Additional work of Dyana Mandira building in Ward No.105 Agraharadasarahalli.	50.00	1,00,000/-
5	Development of RO Plants in Kaveripura Ward No. 103. **(Call-2)**	20.00	50,000/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from e-Procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in (2)** Last date for uploading the filled proposals: **07.08.2020 upto 4.00 PM. (3)** Date of opening of Financial Proposals: **10.08.2020 after 4.00 PM.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagara Division
"Pay development charges, help to develop Bengaluru"

QuoteExpress
THE WAY TO GET STARTED IS TO QUIT TALKING AND BEGIN DOING › WALT DISNEY

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

Department of Water Resources
(Major and Medium Irrigation)

Shri B. S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Ettinahole Project

Saukuru, Ennehole and Kalluvaddahalla Lift Irrigation Projects

Hemavathi Project

Upper Krishna Project Phase-3

Upper Bhadra Project

Mahadayi Canal Diversion Project

Modernization of Tungabhadra Project

Tank Filling Projects to fill up 962 tanks

Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources
Shri Ramesh Jarkiholi inspecting a work

One Year of Achievements

Ongoing projects fast tracked. Flagged off many new projects.

Karnataka Neervari Nigama Ltd.

- Thanks to the relentless efforts of the incumbent government, on Feb 27, 2020 the central government published a special gazette notification of the Mahadayi Water Dispute Tribunal Award. This notification has paved the way for the speedy implementation of the Mahadayi Project.
- Govt. has given approval for preparing a Detail Project Report for constructing a balanced reservoir near Navali. Survey work is in progress.
- The works of Saukuru, Ennehole and Kalluvaddahalla Lift Irrigation projects, which envisage to provide irrigation to 4,800 hectares at a cost of Rs. 306.71 crores Works are in progress.
- Govt. has given administrative approval to 16 tank filling projects costing Rs. 4541.00 crores to supply water to 962 tanks in the drought-prone districts of Chitradurga, Ballari, Gadag, Raichur, Haveri, Davanagere, Shivamogga, Uttarakannada and Belagavi districts.
- Modernization of Main Canal and distributaries of Tungabhadra Project at a cost of Rs. 3,161.35 crores and of Malaprabha Project at a cost of Rs. 1,120.00 crore have been taken up.

Krishna Bhagya Jala Nigama Ltd.

- A sum of Rs.10,000 crore has been announced during this year's budget for implementation of Upper Krishna Project Phase 3 works
- During the current year, govt. has accorded priority for the works of UKP Phase-3 and created the infrastructure needed to irrigate 7,311 hectares of land.
- Works related to the huge aqueduct of Tidgundi Branch Canal under Phase 3 of UKP has been completed. Water was released on a trial basis and tanks have been filled in the canal command area.
- Under Nandawadagi Lift Irrigation Scheme, the dept. has taken up works related to install the drip irrigation system to provide irrigation to 36,000 hectares of area and three package works to fill 72 tanks in Koppal, Bagalakote and Gadag districts under 2nd Phase of Koppal Lift Irrigation scheme.
- The incumbent govt. has given top priority to create irrigation potential and accordingly importance has been given for Upper Krishna Project Phase-3 and its implementation. Also, new policies are being framed to manage micro-irrigation and for maintenance of pumps/motors under lift irrigation schemes.

Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Ltd.

- The DPR of Mekedatu Project has been submitted to the Central Water Commission for clearance. Measures have been taken to clearance for terms of reference of the EIA & EMP reports necessary for the project from the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The incumbent govt. has taken measures to obtain statutory clearance from the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Dept. of Water Resources, Government of India.
- Rs. 65.06 crore micro irrigation project has been taken up. Works are under various stages of progress.
- Modernization works of Hemavathi Right Bank Canal Chain from 0.000 km to 92.104 km has been taken up at a cost of Rs. 422.75 crores. Works are under progress.
- The dept. has taken up the remodeling works of branch canal chain of Hemavathi project, Tumakuru, from 70.360 km to 166.90 km at a cost of Rs. 550.00 crores.

Vishvesharaya Jala Nigama Ltd.

The works of Ettinahole and Upper Bhadra project have been fast tracked. Details are given below.

- Under Upper Bhadra Project, water was lifted on a trial basis from the Bhadra Reservoir and 3.48 TMC of water was supplied to the Vanivilasa Sagar Reservoir for the first time.
- Under Upper Bhadra Project, many tank filling projects have been taken up at a cost of Rs. 2044.21 crore to provide water to 137 tanks in Challakere, Molakalmuur and Pavagad taluks.
- Measures have been taken to provide drinking water and recharge ground water in the river basin villages of Hiriyur, Challakere and Molakalmuur talukas. To do this, water will be released from the Vanivilasa Sagara Reservoir to the Vedavathi River and thereafter 13 barrages and 12 tanks will be filled.
- During the current year, plans have been made to complete the lift works of Ettinahole Project and gravity canal works up to 33 km and release water to the Veda Valley.

"It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lates, rivers and wildlife."

Sri Mallikarjun B. Gunge
Managing Director
Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Ltd

Sri Prabhakar chinni
Managing Director
Krishna Jala Bhagya Nigama Ltd

Sri K. Jayaprakash
Managing Director
Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Ltd

Sri N. Lakshmana Rao Peshve
Secretary to Government, Water Resource Department
and Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigama Ltd

Sri Rakesh Singh
Additional Chief Secretary
Water Resource Department